

**Sermon Title:** The Work

**Sermon Series:** Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:12-13

**Speaker:** Pastor Ian Bonthron



**What does your life \_\_\_\_\_ that you \_\_\_\_\_ at?**

### **Philippians 2:12-13 ESV**

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### **Philippians 2:12 ESV**

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

## **1. Live with Obedient Character**

### **Philippians 2:8 ESV**

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

### **Philippians 2:12 ESV**

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### **Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5 NIV**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast...5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

### **Philippians 3:9 ESV**

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

### **Salvation does not equal Earn**

### **The Bible is against Earning**

**Salvation = deliverance, protection, rescue**

### **Philippians 2:12 ESV**

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## **Salvation in the Bible**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Past – We have been saved

### **Ephesians 2:4-5 ESV**

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

2. \_\_\_\_\_ – Present – We are being saved

### **2 Corinthians 7:1 ESV**

7 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Future – We will be saved

### **Romans 8:30 ESV**

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

### **Philippians 1:6 ESV**

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Which salvation is being referred to?

1. Regeneration
2. Sanctification
3. Glorification

**2. Show your \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Philippians 2:12 ESV**

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### **The Bible is against Earning, not Effort**

### **Philippians 2:12 ESV**

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

*“Ooh,” said Susan, “I though he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.” “That you will, dearie.” said Mrs. Beaver. “And make no mistake, if there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knee’s knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly”... “Then isn’t he safe?” said Lucy. “Safe?” said Mr. Beaver. “Don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the king, I tell you!”*

—C.S. Lewis, Chronicles of Narnia

### **Philippians 2:12 ESV**

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

### **3. Show your salvation because God works in you**

### **Philippians 2:13 ESV**

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### **1 Corinthians 15:9-10 ESV**

9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

*“The reason why they are to work and to expect that their work will yield positive results is that ‘God is at work in you’”*

—Wayne Grudem – Systematic Theology

### **Believing God is at work changes how you live**

### **Philippians 2:13 ESV**

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

What do our lives show that you work at?

**God is at \_\_\_\_\_ in us, so \_\_\_\_\_ at looking like Christ**

## **Questions:**

### **Getting to know you Questions:**

1. What is something that you have worked really hard on? What type of impact did that have on your life?
2. What are some characteristics of you? If you had to describe yourself, what would you say?

### **Into the Bible Questions:**

Read Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

3. Was there something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
4. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
5. **Paul insists that they should “obey”, or “work out your salvation”, not only in Paul’s presence but much more in his absence. Why did Paul have to insist on their obedience in his absence?**
6. **Why might a group of people be more prone to disobedience when their leadership is away?**

**7. Paul says that God is at work in the Philippians. How would an understanding of this reality motivate or empower the Philippians to obey even in the absence of their leadership?**

### **For Extra Study**

Read Colossians 3:1-17

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.[b] 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

8. From this passage, what has Christ done for you? (Vs. 1-4)

9. How does the passage describe we should respond? Vs. 1-2)

10. This passage describes the characteristics or fruit of our salvation. Go through the passage and list as many as you can. (Vs. 5-17)

11. What comfort does this passage bring to your life?

12. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

13. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

### **Application Questions**

**14. What is an area you can work out, work on, or grow in so you display your salvation?**

15. How could you do this with “fear and trembling?”

**16. What are some ways you can remind yourself that God is at work in you?**

17. What would change in your life if you believe this is true?

**18. How can our group help each other with these questions?**