

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, December 4, 2022

The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

[Phil. 2:12-13 NKJV] *12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now 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 do for His good pleasure.*

This week, Pastor John taught about the mutual benefit that exists between us and God in our relationship with Him. Our relationship with God benefits both the Lord and us when it's not just God doing all the giving and us doing all the taking. There is a response God expects from those for whom Christ shed His blood. That means that after we believe in Christ and what He did for us, we have a lifetime of learning to live from our faith in our salvation. We can't contribute to or boast about our own salvation; it is a free gift from God. But we do need to respond to the work of our salvation is us and live from that renewed, restored place. We get to do the work of faith by believing in Jesus and what He did to secure our salvation. We are born again to do the good works of our salvation, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10). We learn to will and to do according to His good pleasure. This is how we thank God for all He has done for us. We work out (do the good works) our own salvation by choosing to live from the free gift that God freely gave to us through His Son's death on the cross. According to the law of mutual benefit, both we and God do our part. God acts in our lives and gives us the power (the energy) to do what He has called us to do, and we yield to that leading and guiding inside of us to do what God has called us to do! This is how we work out our own salvation.

Other Scriptures:

- **[Romans 6:22-23 NKJV]** *22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin [is] death, but the gift of God [is] eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- **[Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV]** *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*
- **[Philippians 1:6 NKJV]** *Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...*

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"?
2. What does it mean "to will and to do according to His good pleasure"?
3. Does that mean we can know God's will?
4. What is the good pleasure God has called you to do in this life?
5. How do we live our lives in such a way on the outside that we show the light of our salvation on the inside?

Life Application:

This week, reread our key verses for today, Philippians 2:12-13. Are you living from the free gift of your salvation by doing the good works that God prepared for you beforehand? Do you know what is the good pleasure that God has called you to do in this life? Spend time with God this week, and ask Him: "What is your will for my life? What do you want me to do to bring you good pleasure?" Live a life that openly celebrates your salvation!