



**“God’s Work Out Plan”**  
**Philippians 2:12-13**  
**The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians**

Philippians 2:12-13 – “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

**I. Introduction (v. 12)**

(v. 12) “So then,”

- Paul continues his appeal based on Jesus ultimate example. (vv. 5-11)

(v. 12) “...my beloved,”

- beloved – *agapētos* - a person dearly loved and cherished; sometimes preferred above all others and treated with partiality.
- When was the last time you encouraged a brother or sister in Christ?

**II. Prompted by Obedience (v. 12)**

(v. 12) “...just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence,”

- Grace and obedience go hand in hand.

Phil. 3:8-9 – “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> 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”

1 John 3:23 – “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.”

**III. Purposed by the Work Out (v. 12)**

(v. 12) “...work out your salvation with fear and trembling;”

- work out – *katergazesthe* – to put something into effect entirely or thoroughly.
- Paul here says work out **not** work for.
- To work out your salvation is to put into practice what you believe.
- “fear and trembling” – genuine recognition of God’s presence should produce awe & reverence not panic and alarm.

#### IV. Prepared by His Plan (v. 13)

(v. 13) "...for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure."

1 Cor. 12:4-7 – "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Eph. 2:8-10 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

- God's sovereign work out plan includes partnership.
  - Man's responsibility (v. 12)
  - God's responsibility (v. 13)

Three things to remember that prepare us for His plan:

1. We are His. *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (3:12)*
2. He is working. *For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. (2:13)*
3. He will finish what He started. *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. (1:6)*

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1.) What word or phrase stood out to you from the message? Why?
- 2.) How do you think Paul's intimacy with the Philippians is expressed in the church today?
- 3.) What does it mean for you to "work out your salvation"? Is it a reality in your life?
- 4.) What's your response to the words "fear and trembling"?
- 5.) Where do you see God working in you according to His good pleasure?