



**Sermon Series:** Life Worth Living Part 4

**Sermon Title:** Heart Work

**Speaker/ Date:** Reuben Scheerings, October 3, 2021

**Philippians 2:12-29**

**BIG IDEA: WALKING AFTER JESUS IS HEART WORK.**

**1. We work out our salvation.**

**Philippians 2:12-18**

Paul taught only what Jesus taught, the obedience that comes through faith – to turn away from sin, to love one another, and to disciple one another. Their obedience was constant, even when Paul was away.

Paul gives the exhortation: "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling." Their obedience was how they were working out their salvation.

What does it mean to "work out your salvation?" One way to understand it is to see it as "**Work out what God has Worked in.**" God has worked in to you salvation. God has given you salvation through Jesus' death on the cross. That is why you cannot earn it. Salvation is given to you as a gift from God when you repent and believe in the name of Jesus. The Holy Spirit has worked salvation into you, you are saved by grace through faith. Jesus said this in **John 17:3.**

This is what God has worked into you: the knowledge of himself. When you know God, you begin to have the fear of God, which is wisdom. When you have the fear of God, you begin to obey God, and when you obey God, you become more like Christ, and that is the working out of salvation. You become more and more like Christ, revealing the salvation and the love of God that was put into your heart.

**2. We work out our attitudes.**

**Philippians 2:14-16**

The grumbling Paul mentions here can be compared to the Israelites grumbling in the wilderness after they were delivered from Egypt. One time they grumbled because they were thirsty, and grumbled against Moses saying that he brought them out of Egypt to die. From our vantage point, we know God brought them out of Egypt to save them, and he would not cause them to perish. But in their trial they thought God brought them out to die. Grumbling may reveal a lack of faith in God. People often grumble because they seem to inconvenience one another. There is also no joy in grumbling, and often, being around someone who grumbles can be draining or take away joy.

### **3. We work out our relationships.**

**Philippians 2:19–30**

Relationships were important to Paul. Paul said he has no one else like Timothy who takes genuine interest in the welfare of others. "No one else like him" is literally "no one of equal soul." Among Paul's associates, none is of equal soul with Timothy in terms of meeting the needs of others. He was sincerely interested in the welfare of the Philippians.

Epaphroditus demonstrated equal concerns for Paul and the Philippians. For apostle Paul, he volunteered to deliver the financial gift send by the Philippian Church. For the Philippians, he was distressed because he was worried that he caused the church to worry about him. He got sick but he was still concerned about the welfare of others.

Paul considered Epaphroditus as his brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier and a messenger. These different roles signified the involvement of Epaphroditus in the life of the church and apostle Paul. These roles signify fellowship, service, mission, and spirituality.

In the same way, we must honor relationships with those who serve in a support capacity because they do their work out of genuine interest in the welfare of others.

**Discussion Questions:**

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Are relationships today different than they were before the internet? Explain the benefits and negative consequences that technology has had on relationships in our culture.**
- **When you have the fear of God, you begin to obey God, and when you obey God, you become more like Christ, and that is the working out of salvation. Does disobedience to God mean that you cease working out your faith? Explain**
- **Why are relationships important when working out your salvation?**
- **Paul commended the Philippian church for their obedience to God's word. Who is someone you would commend for his or her obedience?**
- **How would you counsel a Christian who regularly chooses to follow his or her own will rather than God's will?**
- **When you received Christ, did you have the impression that it was going to be easy or hard work?**