

## Walk the Walk

July 9, 2023

### Philippians 2:12-18

*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; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.<sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup>that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain <sup>17</sup>Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.*

**Philippians 2:12-18**

We see the word “therefore” again and it refers back to our verses last week of Philippians 1:1-11. The focus was to be selfless and imitate Christ and then Paul starts verse 12 with, “therefore”.

As we jump into our scripture today, I want to remind us of three terms or three words if you will, that describe our salvation in Christ:

**Justification** – I have been saved (began at a moment in time).

**Sanctification** – I am being saved (not justified over and over again, but what our passage speaks of today).

**Glorification** – I will be saved; I will meet the Lord one day for to be absent from the body is the be present with the Lord.

Verse 12 doesn't say, “work for, work at or work up your salvation”, but rather it says to “work out”.

Ephesians 2:8-9

#### 1) Own your Faith

This faith is no longer just Paul's or acted on when Paul was around, but it was now theirs. For us, while our faith or instruction may have been passed down from others, we must own it.

The word “obeyed” in this verse looks to the “work out” at the end of verse 12.

“For by grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God not of, what? ‘Works, lest any man should boast,’ Ephesians 2:8 and 9. Romans 3:21 to 24, very clear, ‘The deeds of the law don't justify anybody but righteousness comes by grace.’ No, you don't work for your salvation. There is no salvation by works. So, he's not saying, ‘Work for, work at, work up your salvation.’ He's saying, ‘Work out.’

What does he mean? Well, this verb is important to note. It's a present-tense imperative verb which means it is a command that has a continual emphasis, keep on continually making the effort to work out your salvation. Now, what does it specifically mean? Let me see if I can help you. The verb, as far as I understand it, always means to bring something to fulfillment, to fullness or completion; to bring something to fulfillment, to fullness or completion. And what he is saying is this: the salvation that is in you needs to be brought out all the way to its fulfillment, to its fullness. It really is a command for sustained effort and diligence in working out what has already been planted within.

That's a rich thought. And there is a secular source on this verb that kind of gives a good insight. The ancient scholar Strabo was a Roman, somewhere 60 years or so before Christ. He wrote in Greek, and he had an account in one of his writings that I discovered this last week, which is about some mines that the Romans had in Spain. And he refers to the Romans as working out the mines, and he uses the very same verb. And what he had in mind there was that the Romans, and I think this is made clear in his writing, if I remember correctly, that the Romans owned this land. It was theirs, and they were extracting out from within it all of its richness and all of its value in the mining of the silver. And that seems to be a good expression of what this word means. I am to mine out of my life what God has richly deposited there in the matter of salvation. I am to mine it out. I am to produce such precious nuggets of personal character from what God has planted in me in my salvation. I think that's the first sense in which we are to understand this verse and this command. So, we could say the first aspect of it, then, is to work out in daily conduct what God has put in. I am to mine out what is already mine. Day-to-day holy living. That's the idea. I am to be committed to the process of my salvation coming to the outside, in the sense that it's manifest in my conduct, my behavior. It's a marvelous truth.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2) **When God works in us, Christ works His way out.** (v. 13)

How? Paul tells us:

No **complaining** /disputing (v.15)

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<sup>1</sup> John McArthur

Living in the world but not **of** (v. 15)

Shine The light- (v 15)

**Word** – Word of God – He became flesh and dwelt among us.

Prayer

Suffering

All for Christ and my relationship with Him.

**3) There is work on our part. (vs. 17-18)**

*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.*

**1 Corinthians 15:10-11**

*But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Ephesians 4:20-32**

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

*But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*

**Philippians 3:7-12**

**ABIDE!!!**

**Prayer Focus:**

**Do I “own” my faith?**

**Is my faith working its way out?**

**Am I doing my part?**