

The Will to Do
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Turn with me this morning to:

Philippians 2:1-15

1 If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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 which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Today we are going to visit a passage of Scripture that very seldom gets used for its intended purpose.

Nearly every time we get around to this text, we spend whatever allotment of time we have defending verse 12 from those who would twist it into something it does not mean and seldom actually get to what the Lord is really trying to teach us.

Our goal today is that we will accomplish both.

So, before we go any further, I want to deal with verse 12 and get that part out of the way.

I. To understand verse 12, there are some things you really need to know about salvation.

A. For one, you need to know what salvation is not.

1. There are many variations in which this particular scripture gets twisted.
2. I suppose the most prevalent is that somehow your salvation from the penalty of your sins is begun believing in Jesus but it must be completed by your works.
3. I suppose that sounds reasonable...if you simply don't know any better.
4. But Salvation is NOT of works or even of yourselves in any way.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**: *it is* the gift of God:

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

5. Grace and works are the polar opposite of each other; regarding salvation, they cannot be mixed.

Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

6. Salvation is NOT by works.

Titus 3:4-7

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 **Not by works** of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being **justified by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

B. Also you need to know what your salvation is.

1. If someone knows anything at all about Soteriology, more commonly known as *the doctrine of Salvation*, he knows that when we place our trust in Jesus to save us from our sins a number of things take place at that moment.
2. Our spirit which was dead in sins is passed from death to life...and that life is eternal life, never to be condemned again!

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

3. When we place our faith in the blood that Jesus shed for the penalty of our sins, God declares us righteous...and whatever God declares IS!

4. God gives those who believe His own perfect righteousness.

Romans 3:21-22

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

5. Jesus has taken our sin upon Himself.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

6. God recreates our spirit in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:21-24

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

7. Our spirit, which is the new man, can not, and does not sin!

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. The flesh, of course is a different matter.

8. I could go on all day with proof after proof of what our salvation is, but it all adds up to one thing:

Colossians 2:10 **And ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power:

II. So what is verse 12 about? If this verse does not mean you must add some works to complete your salvation, which it **does not**, what does it mean?

A. What God commands us in verse 12 is explained to us in the very passage in which it sits.

1. “**Work out your own salvation**”; that term “work out” comes from a single Greek word:

κατεργάζομαι

katergazomai

kat-er-gad'-zom-ah-ee

From [G2596](#) and [G2038](#); to work fully, that is, accomplish; by implication to *finish, fashion*: - cause, do (deed), perform, work (out).

2. We are to **accomplish** our salvation.

3. If our salvation itself is already accomplished and we are indeed complete in Christ, and our salvation from the penalty of sin is complete and present tense as the Scriptures say over and over and over again...what is there about our salvation that remains to be accomplished?

4. That is actually pretty easy; it is what this passage of Scripture is teaching us how to accomplish.

*B. We are to “work out” or accomplish **the purpose for which God saved us**.*

1. Do you really think that God saved you so you could just sit on a cloud and play a harp for eternity?

2. God has much for each and every one of us to do. The next verse says:

Philippians 2:13-14

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

3 And He tells us to step up and do it without whining about it...so:

III. How do we accomplish that for which God saved us?

A. First, establish the Motive.

1. Before we are saved, especially when we come to the Lord as adults, our lives are usually filled to capacity with stuff.

2. Work and making money and taking care of our families and paying debts and hobbies and sports and paying taxes; don't forget that.

3. And then the preacher tells us that we must find time, actually a lot of time, to serve the Lord, to worship every week, to attend Sunday School and extra meetings and activities, to faithfully tithe and give...and... to take on a job in the Church using whatever abilities God has given us for the Lord as well.

4. Worse than that, he shows us that all of that is commanded in the Bible.

5. Come on! I've got a life here, how do you expect me to even want to do all that?'

6. When Paul was with them, he was their motivator; but when he left, the Lord took over.

7. **Philippians 2:12-13**

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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 which worketh in you both to will [want to] and to do of [accomplish] his good pleasure.

8. I can encourage you; I can give you an example to follow, I can teach you and love you...but only the Lord can place the desire in your heart to accomplish the purpose for which He saved you.

So, has God placed that desire there in your heart? If it's there:

B. Next, follow the Method.

1. **Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2. Take a look at the mind-set of Christ.

3. Jesus didn't come down here to check it all out and see what it was like to be a human; Jesus came to die; to fulfil His purpose!

4. Jesus stepped on to a path that led straight to the cross and He didn't stray from it.

5. He had the life of a boy growing up; even then He was ever about "His Father's business".

6. Jesus had a life in His teens and twenties as a carpenter's son; likely an apprentice and then a skilled craftsman, one of several children in a fairly large family.

7. When each stage of His calling came due, He made the sacrifices necessary to fulfil it; all the way to that final sacrifice; His death, burial and resurrection.

C. For us, God also provides the Means.

1. I want us to take a look at the Greek word for "to do" in verse 13.

2. **energeō**

en-erg-eh'-o

From **G1756**; to *be active, efficient*: - do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forth self, work (effectually in).

3. Do you recognize that word?

4. I thought you would; God will provide that for you to accomplish His purpose for your life.

5. Not only that; He will pay the expenses.

6. He even blesses our giving by multiplying it and sending it back.

7. That is not why Lisa and I give generously to the Lord...but it is why we are able to give generously to the Lord!

Conclusion:

We are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling; really? Fear and trembling? What should I fear the most; what is the greatest personal tragedy I could face in my life? Sickness, cancer, poverty, dishonor, death? No, it is none of those.

The greatest personal tragedy I could face in my life is failing to accomplish the purpose for which God saved me.

That is just how serious this message is for us today.

God saved you for a reason, He has a purpose for you to fulfill; He even tells us how it works and where it happens.

Jesus gives us His New Testament commands starting with getting saved and then following with baptism which places us in the Church which is His Body.

There we are to step up and serve with all the talent and ability and resources that God gives us...becoming all we can become for His glory!

Do it like Jesus did it; place that purpose for which God saved you in first priority above any and every other thing in your life.

You will spend all of eternity in heaven with the Lord. But your place and your position and your work and your rewards, at least for the next thousand years, will all be determined by whether or not you have fulfilled the purpose for which God saved you.

Where would you be today if others before you had not stepped up to accomplish the purpose for which God saved them?

This is the part where we give the invitation and plead with you to act upon that which the Lord is instructing us.

Thankfully, I don't have to be really good at motivating you; you see, the Lord is going to do that from the inside.

I'm just here to help you get it done.