

BIBLE STUDY EXERCISE

Philippians 2:12-18 (KJV)

¹² ¶ Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out (***work on to the finish, carry it out to the goal***), your own salvation with fear and trembling (serious caution, vigilance against temptation). (see Psalms 2:11; 2 Corinthians 7:14-15, Ephesians 6:5)

¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. (see Phil. 1:6)

¹⁴ ¶ Do all things without murmurings (***an emotional rejection of God's providence, will, and circumstances for one's life, Do your duties and don't find fault with it***) and disputings (***obey without questionings," or "criticisms" directed ultimately and negatively toward God***)

¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless (***do no hurt to God or to others***), the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

¹⁶ Holding forth (***holding out or offering something for others to take***) the word of life (cf – 1 John 1:1); that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

¹⁷ Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

¹⁸ For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

Observation – What do I See? (who, what, where, when, why, wherefore)

- The obedience of Christ in v. 8, is a great motivator for the Christian to have a heart of obedience toward God. Obedience is a mindset (see. V. 5-8)
- I have a part in my sanctification and God has a part.
- When we work out our salvation, we are cooperating with God's will and bringing Him pleasure.
- Sanctification has specific application. Paul did not speak in generalities. He spoke in specifics.
- Sanctification in my life has purpose (that)
- Without murmurings and disputings paves the way for a spirit of rejoicing.
- Work out your own salvation, not work for their own salvation.
- Ellsworth said, "Paul was calling the Philippians, therefore, to work out what God had worked in. They were to live in such a way as to manifest that God had done his saving work within them. They were to show outwardly what God had done inwardly."¹
- Wiersbe said of "work out" – "The verb "work out" carries the meaning of "work to full completion," such as working out a problem in mathematics."² In Paul's day it was also used for "working a mine," that is, getting out of the mine all the valuable ore possible; or "working a field" so as to get the greatest harvest possible.
- Who are the people Paul is writing to? Saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, bishops, and deacons – Phil 1:1
- _____
- _____

Interpretation – What Does It Mean? – One Interpretation (content, context, comparison, culture, consultation)

¹ Ellsworth, R. (2004). [Opening up Philippians](#) (pp. 42–43). Leominster: Day One Publications.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 77). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

There is personal responsibility through obedience to God to work at the Christian life to the finish line while God works in the believer to shape him into a bright light in the world that those who have invested in us that their labour is not in vain.

Active obedience is necessary for the process of sanctification to be progressive.

What might be an alternative interpretation of this passage that would be error?

Does this mean to work in order to be saved in the end? Compare Scripture with Scripture

Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 13:21; compare 2:12 to 3:1-11 (Paul had no righteousness of his own despite all his works) to Phil. 1:1 (already saints)

Applications – What is God Saying to Me? - One Interpretation/Many Applications

- When I am by myself, I need to be more cautious regarding my submission and obedience to God
- For me to become what God wants me to become for his pleasure requires fear and trembling before God to be a daily part of my life.
- My testimony is darkened by grumbling and complaining.
- In praying and working and teaching other other believers, we can have great confidence that God is working in them.
- When I need motivation not to complain
 - I am to reflect that I am son of God
 - I affect those who have invested in me
 - I have opportunity to shine as a light in the world
 - Doing right (specifically not murmuring or disputing) is holding out or offering something for others to take)

What do I need to change in my life as a result of studying Philippians 2:12-18?

I need more fear and trembling in my life

How do I plan to incorporate this change into my life?

Renew my mind on this front so I can be transformed

What verse(s) in this passage will I work on memorizing to help me toward Biblical change?

2 Corinthians 7:14-15

Ephesians 6:5

Philippians 2:12