



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Philippians 2:12-13

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Part 2

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Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, v13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and declares us to be righteous in His sight. (W. Grudem)

Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives (W. Grudem)

Regeneration is a secret act of God in which He imparts new spiritual life to us. (W. Grudem)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence

Therefore

- *1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel*
- *Example of Jesus in 2:5-11 Humble obedience*

my beloved

- Paul refers to Christians as “*beloved*” meaning loved by God
- Reminding the church they are loved by God in Jesus (gospel)
- If we fail to remember that we are accepted by God in the gospel (faith alone), we will always strive in our sanctification to accepted by God (struggle b/c we are not perfected)

as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence

- Obedience to God (Word) is an evidence of our conversion
- Sanctification is progressive (we should not be satisfied)
- Sanctification must be a reality in private and public life

Sanctification

In the progressive work of becoming more and more like Jesus, who is responsible?

- God and man (both)
- This work will not be accomplished without God or apart from you (not a zapping)
- Paradox in scripture
- In v12-13 Paul shows both sides (Man and God)
- Today we will be focusing on our responsibility

Salvation

To better understand our salvation, we need to see it in three parts (Past, Present, Future)

- **Past** (Justification Accomplished, finished work of Jesus)
 - Sin-Freed from Penalty & Power
- **Present** (Sanctification-Becoming more like Jesus)
 - Sin-Removal of sin from our lives (Power)
- **Future** (Glorification-New perfected bodies w/ God)
 - Sin-Freed from Presence

Work out your own salvation

This is an imperative (command)

- “Keep on working out our own salvation until completion”

We are called to work out, what God (in the new birth) has worked in

- God has worked salvation in us, and we are called to work it out
- It is a matter of becoming (outwardly) what God has made us (inwardly)
- You **are** a new creation in Christ, therefore be a new creation
- It is bringing out (in obedience) what God has wrought in (regeneration)

Work out your own salvation-We each have personal responsibility here

Work out your own salvation

There is a biblical order in scripture:

- Our sanctification needs to be our primary focus
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3** *For this is the will of God, your sanctification*
- Being more like Jesus (removing sin) is what we need, our family needs, the church needs, and the lost world needs
 - I want to know God more intimately....Be more like Jesus (remove sin)
 - I want to be a better Husband/Wife.....Be more like Jesus (remove sin)
 - I want to be a better Father/Mother.....Be more like Jesus (remove sin)
 - I want to serve the church better.....Be more like Jesus (remove sin)
 - I want to reach the lost world.....Be more like Jesus (remove sin)
- When we are more like Jesus (less sin) loving/serving others becomes the by-product of our lives

Work out your own salvation

1 Timothy 4:7-16

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 11Command and teach these things. 12Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Work out your own salvation

Scriptural overview of the call to sanctification:

- **Ephesians 2:10** *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*
- **2 Corinthians 7:1** *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.*
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? **So run that you may obtain it.** 25Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. **27But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.***

Work out your own salvation

Scriptural overview of the call to sanctification:

- **2 Timothy 4:7** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*
- **2 Timothy 2:4** *No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the One who enlisted him.*
- **1 Corinthians 4:4** *For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me*

The battle against sin and pursuing Christ-likeness is fought one sin at a time

- **Colossians 3:5** *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*
- **Ephesians 4:29** *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

**We must ever be conforming ourselves to God's revealed Word
(Semper Reformanda) Romans 12:1-2**

Work out your own salvation

With fear and trembling

- Fear and trembling in understanding who God is and who we are in light of Him
 - This is not a fear and trembling of condemnation, but a fear that motivates us towards godliness for His name sake
 - A fear of robbing God of the glory He is due
- Fear of the Lord-Beginning of knowledge (**Prov 1:7**)
- **2 Corinthians 7:1** *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion **in the fear of God.***
- **1 Peter 1:17** *And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile***
- **1 Corinthians 6:20** *for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
- A fear of living a life that would cheapen the price that was paid

***Work out your own salvation
with fear and trembling***

- **We have a personal responsibility in our sanctification**
- **We are called to work out (in our lives) what God has worked in**
- **This is not a passive work but one of vigorous, consistent, hard work (We don't take days off)**
- **We conquer sin and conformity to Christ one area at a time**
- **We work out our salvation with fear and trembling (less we give the impression the cost wasn't a high cost, and rob God of His glory)**