

Series: Divine Joy

C.R. 2-25-18

“Working Out Our Salvation”

Text: Philippians 2:12-18

Intro: In the last couple of week we have experienced the humility of Christ as he came down to us, and the exaltation of Christ as He has been given a name that is above every name, and that at that name every knee shall bow, and tongue confess that he is Lord. Today we will see what that means for us. How now shall we live.

1) A Spiritual Work (12-13)

- a. This does not suggest that we work “for” our salvation. Paul is writing to people who are already saved.
- b. *The word “work out” carries the meaning “working to full completion”. Work to the finish.
- c. Don’t be satisfied with a little when God means for you to have much.
- d. Illustrate with Mark and Justification, Sanctification, Glorification.
- e. It is your salvation. I have my own. You alone must do it.
- f. Illustrate with us trying to tell everyone what they must do with their salvation. Our kids. We must let them work out their salvation.
- g. Fear and trembling. This is not easy, and God never promised that it would be. We fear and tremble because we do not want to disappoint the Lord. We fear and tremble because we know one day we will face the judgement seat of Christ.
- h. *Quote: Let then all fear and trembling be yours as a man and let all confidence and calm trust be yours as a child of God. (Alexander McClaren)
- i. *V.13. The spiritual work is also obeying. “worketh” means to energize.
- j. God will energize and stir the heart of the believer to do God’s will.
- k. He works in us. God must work in us before He can work through us.
- l. The tragedy is when we ignore and neglect and refuse to respond to the stirrings and workings of God.
- m. **Wiersbe.** “Too many Christians obey God only because of pressure on the outside, and not power on the inside.

2) A Social Walk (v.14-15)

- a. We are to work out our salvation by working at NOT murmuring and disputing or arguing.
- b. It means the quiet, soft, behind the back, undertone of murmuring and grumbling. It is this kind of criticism, dissatisfaction, faultfinding, and gossip that goes on within small groups and cliques.
- c. The word “disputings” means arguments, outward and vocal questioning, and expressions of doubt.

- d. 3 things about murmurings and disputes. Never should be allowed in the church. Are never of God. The very sins that brought judgment upon so many Jews in the wilderness.
- e. We are to work at being blameless. Free from fault.
- f. We are to be above reproach, unpolluted, holy, and pure.
- g. *Phillips: It is no small order to be called upon to live an unblemished life in a world of sin and shame.
- h. Think about what the unbeliever thinks when he sees believers arguing, murmuring, disputing.
- i. Talk about the sins of the Israelites in the wilderness. They are recorded in the scripture for a reason. We must avoid acting like this.
- j. Note the end of the verse of 15. We are to shine not whine.

3) A Scriptural Witness (v. 15-16)

- a. Holding forth the Word of Life.
- b. Think about it. This word has life, and it gives life.
- c. Jesus said I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)
- d. The Word of life is the only hope for our world.

4) A Substantial Willingness (v.17-18)

- a. We work out our salvation with by following the example of sacrificial labor.
- b. Paul offered himself and his body for people and for the cause of Christ.
- c. *Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- d. *1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.