

Philippians: Gospel Partnership

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Intro

- Story of Glenda Robert & ~~Robert~~ Lennon
- 20 years ago Glenda/Robert went boating
- 21 foot boat...goggles/flippers/speargun
- 20 minutes later, she began to swim back to the boat but could not get closer and noticed the boat moving away from her
- She was being swept out to sea by the ocean's currents...only 50 yards out when her husband jumped in
- The current got stronger...farther from boat...Robert decides to swim back...takes 6 hours → *stop swimming... stay afloat*
- Spent several hours looking for her...nightfall...returned in the morning with help...found her 20 hours later
- Speaks to our walk...if we stop working, we drift.
- And drift is always away from God, the gospel, the church, a worthy walk
- *to live a life worthy of the gospel, we need to do more than just stay afloat*

Philippians 2:12-13 ESV [12] 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, [13] for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Based on who Christ is... ~~the highly exalted One~~
 † what Christ has done ...
 we are to work out our own salvation
 knowing it is God who works in us.

Therefore

- What do we always ask when we see the word "therefore"?
- What follows is the logical response in light of Jesus being highly exalted and given the name above every name because of his obedience to death on a cross

↳ SINCE THAT IS TRUE... THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE

- This exhortation is based on a captivating portrait of Christ; who he is and what he has done.

The Philippians & Paul

- "Beloved" = greatly loved
- Matthew 3:17 – God calls Jesus his beloved Son
- Philippians are loved by Paul and God...grace and love proceed the command
- Previous obedience – 3 visits to Phillipi, report of Timothy, report of Epaphroditus

IN LIGHT OF ALL CHRIST IS AND ALL CHRIST HAS DONE...
AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP – CURRENT LOVE + PAST OBEDIENCE
PAUL COMMANDS THE PHILIPPIANS TO DO MORE THAN JUST STAY AFLOAT

Our Part

"Work out your own salvation" ⇒ speaks to those who "float" + "drift"

Present tense – ongoing process - Let's work backward through this phrase

"salvation" – GOSPEL – saved from SIN + CONSEQUENCES
– saved to God + BENEFITS

"own" – personal salvation

"your" – community context

"work out"

- To perform something that results in something
- Cultivation of land with results in mind
- Coming out of the gospel that Paul refers back to with the "therefore"
- Harmon: "Thus believers are to work out or express in tangible actions, thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes the inward reality of salvation that God has granted in Jesus Christ. It is in effect a call for the actions of the believer to match one's professed beliefs to such a degree that the outward actions are unmistakably the fruit of the gospel taking deep root in a person's life."

Drift - *staying afloat*

Don't mix metaphors ⇒ HAVING DONE ALL

- Is away from God, gospel, a gospel-worthy life
- Chesterton: "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."
- Effort is required – intentional effort in our life of faith in Christ Jesus using the means God provides

• *Grace is opposed to earning your salvation*
NOT
effort in your salvation

1 Corinthians 15:10 ESV [10] But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, **I worked harder than any of them**, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Does "WORK" describe your participation in your life of faith?

Teaching/Coaching: Work hard & have fun!

↳ Repent

Our Posture

- General attitude with which believers follow the command = fear and trembling
- Fear and trembling = a sense of being overwhelmed with fear to such an extent that it finds an outwards expression
- Def'n – basic attitude of reverence and awe that inevitably carries with it a desire to do God's will
- **Harmon:** "Here in Philippians 2:12 the notion of fear and trembling is likely best understood as one's posture before God Himself. Such fear and trembling recognizes the reality of who God is, the eternal nature of the stakes involved and the seriousness with which one must pursue Christ-likeness..."
- **WE ARE NOT PLAYING CHURCH ⇒ born in the church**
- Understanding who you are dealing with, how you deal with him, and the consequences of the dealings

God's Part

How much God loves us!

The exhortation to "work out our own salvation" speaks to those who expect to put no effort into their salvation.

This clause that Paul adds speaks to those who think they can do it all in their own strength.

- I got this! Successful business, family, education, retirement
- You ain't got this!

"for" – the exhortation to work is grounded in God's work

"energeo" eh-ner-GEH-o

- To put forth power
- Supernatural activity - **1 Corinthians 12:4-6 ESV** [4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who **empowers** them all in everyone.

Two things God works in us:

1. Internal: to will - An inner desire of the heart
2. External: to work - An outer demonstration of the God's supernatural power

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Through the Gospel God gives both the desire to work out our own salvation and the power to work out our own salvation

Do I work or does God work? Yes!

Not Either/Or but Both/And

- How does my salvation get worked out? BOTH you AND God work out your salvation
- Both/And but not equal!

God's Work/Our Work

- Primary/secondary
- Independent/dependent
- Foundation/tangential
- Necessary/contingent
- Original/derivative

In terms of every aspect of our salvation God's work creates our work, God's work initiates our work, God's work is the necessary catalyst for our work, God's work produces and guarantees the completion of our work!

→ Communion — the emblems tell us that God has done the work
— the Bible says... TAKE THIS!

Both we work and God works; but the working is not an equal kind of working. He is the Creator, we are his creatures.

→ daughter baking cookies
→ help dad with picnic table

That is a complicated way of saying what Paul has beautifully said in these verses: "Work out your own salvation, for it is God who works in you..."

God's Posture

The reason this all happens: for his good pleasure.

It's about him!

APPLICATION: ⇒ COMMIT

Communion ⇒ 3 Things You Can Do

- ① repentance
- ② faith
- ③ love + commitment to body

- prayer
- Bible
- church
- sacraments