

PHILIPPIANS 2

WORKING OUT SALVATION (VERSE 12-13)

MAY 24, 2023

SCRIPTURE

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

SALVATION

Paul isn't saying "work for your salvation," but more so "live out your salvation."

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

SANCTIFICATION

Paul is talking about sanctification, where God plays a part and we have a role.

Sanctification is the process of becoming less like the world and more like Jesus Christ.

SANCTIFICATION ROLES

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and His Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:2, NLT

1/ God plays a significant role in sanctification.

May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. 1 Thessalonians 5:23, NIV

Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. John 15:4, NIV

2/ Individuals play a less significant role in sanctification.

...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17, NIV

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. 2 Corinthians 7:1, NIV

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:5-10; 12-14, NIV

Christians are to obey the Holy Scripture.

This often involves avoiding some things while embracing others.

"Sometimes you cannot fully understand the Bible until you obey it." Eugene Peterson

Christians are to obey the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God will never lead you to do something contrary to Scripture.

"You can tell your faith is real if when the Holy Spirit pricks your conscience you bleed repentance." Bunk Parsons

FEAR and TREMBLING

Paul uses this terminology because he wants readers to remember the gravity.

"God is not a kindly spiritual grandfather, sitting in the sky. God is not a teddy bear. God is not a kitten. God is a lion who loves us, but His loves does not mean we are (free) to domesticate Him." Steven Lawson

He provided redemption for His people; He ordained His covenant forever—holy and awesome is His name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Psalm 111:9-10, NIV