

OBEDIENCE: A KEY PART OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18



WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING. (V.12)

I. PAUL COMMENDS THEIR PAST OBEDIENCE. (v.12a)

A. “as you have always obeyed”

II. PAUL COMMANDS THEIR PRESENT OBEDIENCE. (v.12b)

A. “much more in my absence” – What do you do when you’re all by yourself?

B. Work OUT, not Work FOR

1. Eph. 2:8, 9 – Salvation is by GRACE, not WORKS

2. No one can work OUT, what God has not worked IN.

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C. “work out” – means to work to full completion; carry to its logical conclusion

- 1.Example 1: working out a math problem
- 2.Example 2: mining to get the value out of something you already possess

D. “your OWN salvation”

- 1.Believers Need to ACCEPT **RESPONSIBILITY** for their **OWN** FAITH. You can’t live off someone else’s faith.
- 2.Believers have a responsibility to **OBEY** God.

E. “with fear and trembling” – healthy fear leading to deep respect and awe.

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III. PAUL ENCOURAGES THAT GOD IS THE ONE WORKING. (v.13)

A. Verses 12 and 13 Teach the Doctrine of Sanctification

1. Verse 12 Human RESPONSIBILITY to Obey
2. Verse 13 God's SOVEREIGNTY in the Process

B. “both to will and to work”

1. God produces the WILLINGNESS, the CAPABILITY to do what is right within us.
2. God is the one who ENERGIZES or EMPOWERS our obedience through His Spirit.
3. This doesn't happen by imitation, but by INCARNATION. (Gal. 2:20)

DO EVERYTHING WITHOUT COMPLAINING. (V.12)

I. COMPLAINING REVEALS A LACK OF GRATITUDE AND JOY IN YOUR LIFE.

II. WE ARE TO DEVELOP A GOOD REPUTATION IN THE WORLD.

A. “that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish”

1. Blameless – above reproach

2. Children of God – We ought to RESEMBLE our Father in Heaven

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III. WE ARE TO SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD.

A. Your Life Is A Testimony

1. Mt. 5:15-16

2. 1 Pet. 2:9

IV. WE ARE TO HOLD FAST TO THE WORD OF LIFE.

A. “holding fast” – We cling to God’s truth in trusting obedience.

B. “holding forth” – We share the Gospel with people.

LIVING AN OBEDIENT LIFE NOW LEADS TO ETERNAL REWARDS LATER (V. 16-18)

- I. PAUL'S CONCERN, WILL WE REJOICE IN VICTORY OR ARE WE JUST RUNNING IN VAIN?