

CB. - 11/4/73 p.m.

WORKING OUT OUR SALVATION

Phil. 2:12-18

- Intro: Some of Paul's letters we call Pastoral Epistles. They are really for pastors.

This epistle to the Philippians really should be included. The others give the details of the work; this describes the spirit of the work.

I. His Primary Concern (Phil. 2:12).

Salvation for the believer today as to our experience is incomplete. We are incomplete. We need to be completed. This is what Paul means by "work out your own salvation."

Note the paradoxes. Is he worried about it must be done? ~~his salvation?~~
1) "With fear" - with earnestness
lest anything be omitted.
2) "And trembling" - distrusting
ourselves.

All of this looks back over 1:21-
2:11.

II. What It Involves (Phil. 2:13-16).

A. Knowing God's part (Phil. 2:13).
This is basic.

God is in us - working.

so is Christ (Gal. 2:20), and so is the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19,20).

He not only enables us to do, but even makes us willing before we do.

B. Understanding Our Part (Phil. 2:14-16)^a

It means:

- 1) Doing
- 2) Being
- 3) Shining
- 4) Holding forth

1. Doing (v. 14). Note it is a way of teaching positive truth negatively.

The way we live determines what we are doing.

The emphasis is inward + outward. Israel is the bad example.

2. Becoming - in fact.

The emphasis is threefold:

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Before men. 2) Before ourselves. 3) Before God. | } All within
the realm of
"his good
pleasure." |
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3. Ministry:

a. Shining - as heavenly lights in a world that is:

- 1) Out of the way
- 2) Perverse, distorted.

Note: When men get away from the Lord, they do not do what they would if they were "children of God"; they are perverted.

b. Holding out to the world the Word of life.

Note that this is the key of it all - a vital part of working out our soul.

III. Why It Is Important (Phil. 2:¹⁶⁻¹⁸ 18).

Future, first; then, present.

A. As to the future (v. 16 b).

"The day of Christ" - cf. 1:6, 10.

B. as to the present (vv. 17, 18).

1. Paul's joy (v. 17). Sir., I rejoice and encourage you.

2. Their joy (v. 18) - to be the same.