

Philippians 2:12-15 | 9/4/16

- Putting our salvation to action by serving Christ. | Philippians 2:12-15
 - **Read Philippians 2:12-15**
 - Christians are called to “work out” our salvation
 - Paul’s call for the Christians to “work out” our salvation was not a call for works based righteousness.
 - This truth has already been established on many occasions.
 - **To “work out” is simply to put into practice (on a daily basis) the results of the salvation that God has done within us through the Holy Spirit.**
 - In simplistic terms we could think of “work out” in the sense of exercise. Just as one works out or exercises their muscles to improve them so must the Christian exercise and make use of the results of the Spirit that God has done within them.
 - This is a call for Christians to do the work (or purpose) that God has called them to.
 - All Christians have been called by God to serve a purpose.
 - He did not save us just for us to sit around waiting for the train to take us to Heaven. For us to not have any purpose in this life.
 - **No Christ has called us all to do His will, to serve a purpose and to do His good works.**
 - Ephesians 2:8-10
 - “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.
- We are HIS creation
 - We are not our own, we were created and called to serve and obey and Holy and righteous God.
 - The world likes to think that our sole purpose in life is for our uplifting, and that WE are in control of our destiny.
 - But this couldn’t be further from the truth.
- We were created for good works
 - We were not created to do whatever it is WE want to do, **no we were created to do what GOD wants us to do.**
 - We were not created to sin, to do evil and cause pain and suffering.
 - Our “works” are numerous and they are whatever God wills.
 - We were created to serve others, to share the Gospel, to be ambassadors for Christ, to be His hands and feet in the world.
 - We are called to love, to be a friend, to care for others, to take care of the poor, the orphans and the elderly.
 - **This is our purpose in life to do the works that He has called us to.**
 - Regardless of the “work” if we act on it we will shine like stars in the world.
- These works were prepared ahead of time.
 - The importance of the good works we are called to is made evident in that God has planned them long before we were even born.
 - God’s plan for humanity does include us and we are responsible for doing them.

- This is a call for Christians to be stars in the world.
 - Christian can only shine in the world if we put into action our changed hearts that Christ has given us through the Spirit.
- When we “work out” our salvation we will be blameless and pure children of God.
 - **To be blameless or harmless (innocent) this describes a life that cannot be criticized because of sin or evil. It is a life that is pure.**
 - If we are living out the work and serving the purpose of Christ on a daily basis it will be very difficult for someone to look up us and see sin and evil.
 - We can never be perfect but if we are doing God’s will and doing His works it leaves very little room for sin and evil.
- **Do Christians today always faithfully “work out” our salvation? Do we strive on a daily basis to work out the good purposes of God?**
- **Do you think it’s a coincidence that by doing the work of God, that it causes us to be blameless or innocent?**
- Human responsibility of obedience and the divine enablement
 - ***Read Philippians 2:13***
 - ***“For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire (will) and to work out His good purpose (pleasure).”***
 - There are two important things that are necessary for us to work out God’s will or what he desires from us.
 - **One is the human responsibility of obedience, and the other is God’s divine enablement.**
 - Christians are partners with God and we work together with Him.
 - We are not robots but at the same time we are not without direction or guidance.
 - God does not simply pull all our strings where we have zero control over the decisions we make.
 - **There is a mutual working between the Christian and God to do the work He has called us to.**
 - Human Responsibility of obedience
 - For Christians do have a part, we must also obey the commandments of Christ and do the work that He has called us to.
 - Our obedience is necessary to work out our salvation, as this is what Paul saw from the Christians in Philippi.
 - **Our faith and obedience are closely linked together. In Scripture we see it referenced as “obedience to faith”, which is our faithful response to the commands of God.**
 - Romans 1:5
 - **“We have received grace and apostleship through Him to bring about the obedience of faith among all the nations, on behalf of His name,”**
 - Romans 16:26
 - **“but now revealed and made known through the prophetic Scriptures, according to the command of the eternal God to advance the obedience of faith among all nations”**
 - As Christians who put their complete faith, trust and confidence in Christ it is only natural for us to **obey Him through our faith.**

- Our faith in Him gives us the desire to obey, to listen to the Holy Spirit and to act.
- Our “obedience to faith” is to conform ourselves to the Gospel.
 - The Gospel message of Christ is truly the Word and commands of God. They are not purely human words.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - “This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the message about God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the message of God, which also works effectively in you believers.”
 - **When Christians truly take the Gospel, the Scriptures as truly a message from God we will conform ourselves to obeying His Words and the truths He has given us.**
 - **To conform is to obey, follow, accept**
 - We must always “obey the truth”.
 - Galatians 5:7
 - “You were running well. Who prevented you from obeying the truth?”
 - Romans 2:8
 - “but wrath and indignation to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth but are obeying unrighteousness;”
 - **Scripture warns us of disobeying the Scriptures, we cannot do the will of God and serve His righteous purposes if we do obey Him.**
 - **We must conform ourselves to obeying the Scriptures and what God has laid on our hearts through the Holy Spirit.**
- Our obedience comes from reverence.
 - When Paul said work out our salvation with fear and trembling this is obedience that comes from reverence and a proper “healthy” fear of God.
 - When we see God for who He truly is, the creator of everything who has power over all, this will give us a healthy fear of Him.
- **Do Christians take our responsibility of obedience to God for granted?**
- **Do we try to suppress the “callings” that the Holy Spirit has laid upon our hearts?**
- Divine Enablement
 - To understand the work of Christ in our lives is vital.
 - Scripture clearly teaches us that without the enablement of Christ through the Holy Spirit, we cannot do anything on our own.
 - John 15:4-5
 - Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.”
 - Without Christ we cannot do anything on our own. It is only because of the indwelling Spirit of God that makes doing His works and will possible.

- **Without His Spirit our works are simply our own, we cannot do His works or will without Him.**
 - **The fruit produced is the good works that comes as a result of the enabling of the Holy Spirit.**
 - **Our obedience comes after the work of the Spirit.** God first works in our hearts to make it even possible for us to do His good works.
 - God enables and gives us our Spiritual gifts so that we can produce good fruit.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:6
 - “And there are different activities, but the same God activates each gift in each person.”
 - **God has a purpose for each Christian and HE gives them the abilities and gift to do His will.**
 - Christ gives us the desire to do His good works according to His will.
 - As Christians we all have a desire to do the works and will of God.
 - **This is not by accident that we feel this way.**
 - Because of the Holy Spirit he gives us the desire to want to do them.
 - **A Christian will have a longing and desire to serve, to share the Gospel and to do many things that would seem contrary to the world.**
 - A Christian doesn’t have to think, “I’m going to have to force myself to be obedient to God”.
 - Or well I guess I’ll have to serve and be a light to others.
 - Because God puts the desires upon the heart of the Christian.
 - **This makes our act of obedience much easier, because we feel called to it.**
 - This doesn’t mean we won’t look at the calling as hard or difficult. But it does mean that He will give us the desire.
 - But if it is His will we will strengthen us so that we CAN do it.
 - Philippians 4:13
 - “I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.”
 - God through the Spirit will reveal His will to us.
 - Ephesians 1:9
 - “He made known to use the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He planned in Him”
 - When He makes his will know to us we will have the desire to fulfill it.
 - **There is where our obedience come in, God gives us the desire and the abilities to do it, but the Christian must still OBEY.**
 - **Have you experienced God’s divine enablement in your life? How has this affected your obedience?**
- Our attitudes matter
 - In all that we do for Christ we must never grumble or argue.
 - If Christ has given us a purpose and called us to a “work” regardless of what it is, we must never complain.

- If we grumble, then we are looking at it from a human perspective and not with our spirit filled hearts.