

# Working Out Your Own Salvation

Script - Phil. 2:12-13

- A. The background and setting - The Philippian church
  - 1. They are very dedicated believers, that have been supportive of his ministry.
  - 2. His letter is one of appreciation for them and not trying to solve a problem among them
  - 3. He is not going to be able to be with them to guide them.
  
- B. What he is not saying
  - 1. Paul is not suggesting that you work your way to heaven (Eph. 2:7-8 Salvation is by grace).
  - 2. You cannot work out salvation for someone else (Eze. 14:20). You must have a personal relationship with God to interact with Him to bring about salvation in your life. We can wish that someone else will be saved, but it is a personal choice that each person must make for themselves.
  - 3. We are born into a world of sin, and the Bible makes it abundantly we cannot save ourselves. God has provided for the salvation of all through the sacrifice of His son Jesus (Jn. 3:16), but not all will be saved (Mt. 7:21-23; Ex. 34:5-7; Mt. 22:2-13; Mt. 25; Gen. 6)).
  - 4. Here is a list of the basic steps that must be taken;
    - a. "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." John 3:16
    - b. "Humanity is tainted by sin and is therefore separated from God. As a result, we cannot know God's wonderful plan for our lives." Romans 3:23 and 6:23.
    - c. "Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin.
    - d. "We must place our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior in order to receive the gift of salvation and know God's wonderful plan for our lives." John 1:12 describes this for us, "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."
  
- C. So what is he saying?
  - 1. Once you have given your life to Christ, it is not the end of the experience but only the beginning of the journey. (Jn. 3, the new birth).
  - 2. Paul does not believe once saved always saved (Eze. 3:20; 33:13; Mt. 18:21).
  - 3. He is telling them that they have started on your journey so he is counseling them to...
    - a. Take their calling seriously and continue to grow in His grace and learn.
    - b. Develop their walk with Him. Figure out how to apply your knowledge to your life and allow the Holy Spirit access to work in and through you so you reach the potential that God has for you.
  
- D. Rahab - A practical example of working out you own salvation
  - 1. There came a day when she knew she and all around her were condemned to die (Joshua 6:17).
  - 2. Rahab realized there was only one way out so she surrendered her life to the control of another and she accepted God's plan for her salvation (Joshua 6:25; Heb. 11:31).
  - 3. There were terms that she had to abide by to make that agreement valid. She had to follow through or the agreement would be nullified.
  - 4. Her decision not only saved her life but the lives of others in her family (Joshua 6:25; Ezra 2:34; Neh. 7:36; 3:2).
  
- E. Jesus died on the cross for our salvation (Jn. 3:16-17).