

## WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION

(Philippians 2: 12-16) (I Corinthians 9:24-27)

In Philippians 2, Paul exhorts the saints at Phillipi to love, unity and humility. He exhorts them to diligence and seriousness in the Christian course and to work out their OWN soul salvation. The greatest concern above all things is to secure the welfare of our souls.

Whatever becomes of things in life, our greatest interest is our own soul salvation. The soul of a man must spend eternity somewhere. Life has many choices but eternity only has two which is heaven or hell.

It is not for us to judge others: we have enough to do, to take care of our own soul salvation. We are required to work out our own salvation. We must work it out through pain, hardship, misunderstanding, burdens, false accusations, persecutions, lost of friendship(s), family disputes, death, lack of funds, unemployment any other situation that may occur. Regardless of the circumstances, we are still required to work it out.

In working it out, we must do all that can possibly be done not just sometimes, but at all times.

We are not required to work for our salvation, but when God gives us salvation through Christ, we must work it out.

SALVATION: Deliverance from the power of sin.

The need for salvation goes back to man's removal from the Garden of Eden. After the fall, man's life was marked by strife and difficulty, evil thinking, lust, idolatry and many other sins that brought forth corruption and violence that began to dominate his world.

God had to establish a plan of salvation to restore man's place or relationship with him. (Jesus had to die on the cross, in order for us to obtain this salvation).

Salvation that comes through Christ may be described in three tenses: Past, present and future.

When a person believes in Christ and accepts him as Savior, he is saved. (Acts 16:31). We are also in the process of being saved from the power of sin, (on a daily basis). We are tempted every day, but we walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Finally, we shall be saved from the very presence of sin. Our experience of salvation will be complete when Christ returns, and when the Kingdom of God is fully revealed.

In working out our salvation, God has given us divine enablement through the Holy Spirit. However, some people will not allow the Holy Spirit to work through them.

In working out your soul salvation you must always obey God's word. You must also abstain from all things that might displease him. You must also have a reverential fear of God. This is a great guard and preservation from evil.

The Bible declares that Job feared God and eschewed evil.

Nehemiah did right before God because he feared him.

Abraham moved by faith, but also had a Godly fear and was obedient to God.

Matthew 10:28 tells us to Fear not them which kill the body only.

Ecclesiastes (12:13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep in commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

In working out our soul salvation we must keep our body under subjection. (To bring under the authority or control of; to place under or put under).

Paul considered his body an enemy with which he must contend with immortal combat to keep it under control.

How is this done?

#1: By self-denial

#2: By Abstinence

#3: By severe mortification.

In Colossians (3:5-10), Paul acted to keep his body as a slave to his soul, and not permitting the soul to be a slave to the body. He did this constantly, least after he had preached to others he would become a castaway (Christless, or rejected).

In conclusion, it is our responsibility after we receive Christ as our personal Savior, to walk in the Spirit and to live a life that is pleasing to God by abiding in his Word and by evaluating our status on a daily basis. God has made available to us all of the resources that we need to live a full life of victory on earth and to receive the great promise of eternal life. Therefore whatever it takes, by any means necessary: **WORK IT OUT!**