

Work It Out

Philippians 2:12-18

Introduction

I Paul's Appeal

- A. He appealed to them as his dear **friends** - Phil 4:1; Matt 3:17
- B. He appealed to them as those who had always obeyed:
 - 1. Whether in his **presence** - James 1:22; Col 3:22a
 - 2. Or even in his **absence** - Col 3:22b-24

II Paul's Command

- A. He acknowledged man's **responsibility**:
 - 1. Continue to work out your salvation - Eph 2:8-10; 5:8-10
 - a. With **fear** and trembling - Isa 66:2; Ps 2:11; 1 Pt 1:17
 - 1. An attitude of the **heart** - Isa 66:2
 - 2. An attitude of service - Ps 2:11
 - 3. An attitude of **vision** - 1 Peter 1:17
- B. He acknowledged God's **faithfulness**:
 - 1. For it is God who works in you: - Jn 15:1-2
 - a. To **will** according to His good purpose - Eze 36:26-27
 - b. To **act** according to His good purpose - 2 Thess 1:11

III Paul's Exhortation

- A. Do everything without **complaining** or arguing: - 1 Cor 10:10
 - 1. So that you may become **blameless** and pure - Phil 1:9-11
 - 2. So that you may behave as children of God - 1 Pt 2:12
 - a. Without **fault** in a crooked and depraved generation
 - b. In which you **shine** like stars in the universe - Dan 12:3
 - c. As you hold out the **Word** of Life - 1 Jn 1:1-3

IV Paul's Motive

- A. He wanted to **boast** on the day of Christ - 1 Thess 2:19-20
 - 1. That he did not run or labor for nothing - Isa 49:4
- B. He was poured out like a drink offering - 2 Tim 4:6-8
 - 1. On the **sacrifice** coming from their faith - Rom 12:1
 - 2. On the **service** coming from their faith - 1 Pt 2:4-5
- C. He was glad and rejoiced with all of them - Col 1:24

D. He wanted them to be **glad** and rejoice with him - 2Cor 4:16

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What is your motivation for obedience to God? Parents? Boss?
2. What do you think Paul had in mind when he exhorted the believers to "work out their salvation"? From your understanding, what is your part and what is God's part in 1) Salvation and 2) Sanctification?
3. What do you grumble and complain about? Based on Ex 16:6-8, who are you really griping about? Read Num 14:26-29 and 1 Cor 10:10-11. What are the potential consequences for grumbling? What steps can you begin to take to live a more joyful and thankful life in your home? At work? At church?
4. Paul describes believers as those who "shine like stars in the universe". Based on your current spiritual life, would you describe yourself as a 1) Super Nova, 2) Twinkling star, 3) Falling star or 4) Dead asteroid? What would it take for you to burn more brightly for the Lord? Are you willing?
5. Paul's entire life's work was tied up in people, the gospel and God's calling on his life. What is your life's work? How are Paul's priorities being expressed in and through your work?
6. Take a few minutes to ask the Holy Spirit for a heart of 1) Obedience to His Word, 2) Diligence in your salvation, 3) Thankfulness for His blessings, 4) Courage to share the Gospel, and 5) Vision to live for eternity.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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