

Study 08
“Working Out (Salvation)”
Philippians 2:12-18



Dwelling in the Word

1. Prayerfully read through Philippians 2:12-18 (ideally in a few different translations) and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. When we looked at the passage on Sunday, Pastor Tyler talked about how, as we work out our salvation, it is an ongoing process, a responsive partnership with God. What is something that you have recently learned, or re-learned about God and life with him?
2. There continues to be an emphasis on living life together in community. How does living out your faith with others encourage you to keep living a life of faith through the celebrations and difficulties of life?

Digging Deeper

1. How do you typically understand the idea of salvation? How does the notion that salvation is talked about in the New Testament in three tenses: past, present, and future modify your understanding?
2. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, but God expects us to continually cooperate and be responsive to his grace in our lives. Scot McKnight puts it this way: “saved people live saved lives.” How does this help you nuance the idea of “working out salvation”?
3. Pastor Tyler emphasized the communal nature of the Apostle Paul’s exhortations in this passage. What do you think it means for the church/community of faith to “continue working out salvation for yourselves”?
4. In 2:15, Paul draws a contrast to the wilderness generation of the ancient Hebrews (see Exodus and Numbers), and encourages the Philippians to continue to avoid “grumbling and arguing” and to live as “blameless and pure children of God” in the midst of pagan Roman culture. Why did Paul think this was important? How does our life together as Christ followers impact our witness to the world around us?
5. Paul says that if the Philippians live in unity and harmony (as described in 1:27-2:14), then they will “‘shine among them like stars’ in the world, holding forth the word of life” (2:15b-16a). How do the two parts of this verse (shining and holding forth) relate to each other? Why is it important that we “shine like stars in the world”?
6. In Phil 2:16b-18, Paul wraps up by once again referring to his present situation and his hope that the Philippians will respond in such a way that he could boast and rejoice with them (like 1:25-26). How are you encouraged by the faithful obedience of others? Do you find it difficult to rejoice with others?

Living it Out


1. The two reflection questions Pastor Tyler concluded his sermon with were: “What does it mean for us to ‘work out our salvation’ today?” and “What does it mean for us to be God’s children who ‘shine like stars’ in the world?” What are your thoughts? What practical steps can you take to allow God to do that work in your own life?



**Working Out
(Salvation)**

Philippians 2:12-18


November 3, 2024
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church



Working Out Salvation

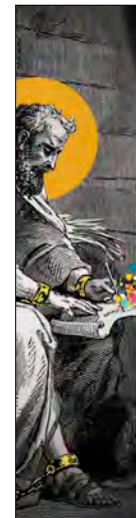
Whether Paul is present or absent:

- Work out your salvation (2:12-13);
 - Without grumbling or arguing (2:14-15a);
- So that you will shine like stars (15b);
 - So Paul's work will not be in vain (2:16-18).



Working Out Salvation

Therefore, my loved ones, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue working out salvation for yourselves with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is working to will and to work goodwill among you (2:12-13).

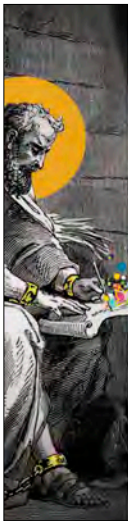


Working Out Salvation

“Working out your salvation”

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~~“Working to earn your salvation”!!!!~~



Working Out Salvation

Salvation (*sozo σωζω, soteria σωτηρια*)

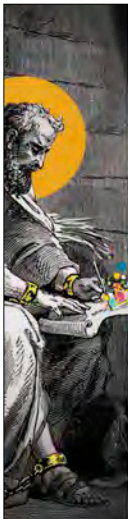
Salvation is a process, not a one-time, one-and-done event

Past	Present	Future
We have been saved (Salvation)	We are being saved (Sanctification)	We will be saved (Glorification)



Working Out Salvation

1. It's a responsive **partnership** with God
2. It's an ongoing **process**
3. It's about **growing** in *faithful obedience*
4. It's something we should take **seriously**



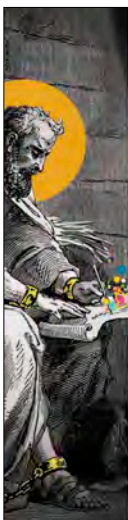
Working Out Salvation

5. It's a **communal** thing
 - Present outworking of their salvation within the believing community (plurals throughout).
 - "...to will and to work *goodwill* among you (see 1:15; contra NIV: "in order to fulfill his good purpose").



Without Grumbling or Arguing

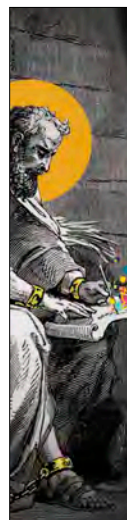
Continue to do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in 'a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will 'shine among them like stars' in the world, ¹⁶holding forth the word of life (2:14-16a).



Without Grumbling or Arguing

“Continue to do everything without grumbling or arguing...” (2:14).

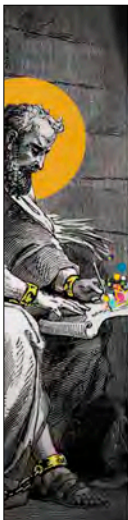
- Allusion to wilderness wanderings; in effect Paul is saying don't be like the Israelites when they grumbled and argued in the wilderness (cf. 1Cor 10:10).



Without Grumbling or Arguing

“so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault ‘in a warped and crooked generation’” (2:15).

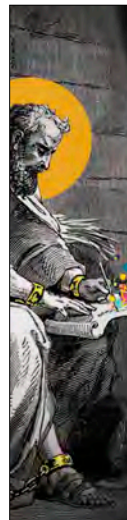
- In Deut 32:5 the Israelites are called “corrupt and not his children; a warped and crooked generation.”
- In contrast, they are to become “blameless and pure children of God”, in the midst of “a warped and crooked generation.”



Shining like Stars

“Then you will ‘shine among them like stars’ in the world, holding forth the word of life” (2:15b-16a).

- Allusion to Dan 12:3, but instead of “shine like stars in the heavens”, they will “shine like stars in the world” (Matt 5:16; John 8:12; Eph 5:8).
- “Holding to” (NIV, NLT) or “holding forth” (NRSVue, MSG); the latter fits the missional emphasis.



So Paul's Work will not be in Vain

And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me (2:16b-18).



Invitation

1. What does it mean for us to “work out our salvation” today?
2. What does it mean for us to be God’s children who “shine like stars in the world”?