

**Intro:** Paul began chapter 2 by giving an exhortation to the church to possess and guard unity.

Then Paul gave us the illustration of unity; Jesus is the model of unity.

In fact Jesus is our blueprint for living. If Jesus is our pattern then we must put it into practice Through Jesus we are to die to self and live in lowliness of mind and humility.

**Philippians 2: [12] Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

### **1. Instructions for Living 12**

Paul begins verse 12 with the word "*wherefore*", which connects the previous verses. In those verse Paul taught about Christ's unity, Christ's obedience and Christ's Lordship.

Then Paul addresses the church at Philippi as "*beloved*."

Paul loved the church affectionately.

Paul says to the church, "just as you obey Christ in my presence, continue to obey in my absence." Remember Paul is writing from a Philippian jail.

Jesus was obedient to His Father. Jesus was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

To be obedient to place one's oneself under and submit.

Paul says "church because Jesus was obedient, we must be obedient."

Paul says "*work out your own salvation*."

Paul did not say work for your salvation.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

*[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*

*[9] Not of works, lest any man should boast*

You see, God has first worked in us salvation. Jesus said "*without me ye can do nothing*."

Now that He has worked in us, we can work out or live out what He has done within.

No one can work out salvation unless God has first worked within.

We are to get working because of salvation.

Working out salvation is daily living for the Lord.

It is to live straight in a crooked world.

We are to work out our salvation "*with fear and trembling*."

Fear is a reverent awe or respect. Trembling is shaking,

### **Isaiah 66:2**

*[2] For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*

Paul ministered in fear and trembling, 1 Corinthians 2:3.

Servants are to obey in fear and trembling, Ephesians 6:5.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:11, Paul knew the terror of the Lord and he did not want to fail God.

\*In the summer of 1982, Larry Walters, a 33 year old truck driver, accomplished a great feat. Tired, and bored of just sitting around, he decided he needed an adventure. On July 2, he rigged 42 helium filled weather balloons to a lawn chair, and lifted off. Armed with a pellet gun to shoot out a few balloons, should he fly too high, Walters was shocked to reach 16,000 feet so rapidly. He wasn't the only one surprised, several airline pilots reported seeing, "some guy in a lawn chair floating in the sky." This also confused, and perplexed air traffic controllers. Finally, Walters began to shoot off a few balloons, which allowed him to land safely in Long Beach some 45 minutes later. For this he was a guest on The Tonight Show and he got a Timex ad. He quit his job, and began to deliver motivational speeches across the country. However, when asked what possessed to do such a thing, Walters' answer was, "It was something I had to do, because I just couldn't sit there and do nothing!"

**Philippians 2: [13] For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

## **2. The Influence of the Lord 13**

### **A. His Person**

It is God, who worketh in us. The Lord is working in us before He works through us.

### **B. His Power**

God's power is above and beyond all other power. *Psalm 62:11 "Power belongeth unto God."*

### **Ephesians 3:20**

*[20] Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us*

### **C. His Presence**

It is not God working on you or for you but "*in you.*" God has saved us and moved within us.

### **D. His Purpose**

God's will is both to will and to do.

He is interested in your desire and your deed.

God is more interested in the workman than the work.

God's will is for every believer to desire to do the right thing and then He gives the ability to do the right thing.

Only when the worker is right can the work be right.

God uses the Scriptures, His Word, to accomplish His purpose, 1Thessalonians 2:13.

Appreciate the Word - Welcome it.

Appropriate the Word- Receive it.

Apply the Word- Put it to practice God uses His Spirit to accomplish His purpose.

God uses our sufferings to accomplish His purpose.

### **E. His Pleasure**

God's good pleasure is that which pleases or satisfies Him. Without faith it is impossible to please Him.

### **Luke 12:32**

*[32] Fear not, littleflock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

### **Isaiah 55:11**

*[11] So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

**Philippians 2: [13] For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. [14] Do all things without murmurings and disputings:**

### **3. The Imperative of Light 13-14**

We will have difficulties, but since God is working in us we can do all things through Christ. In fact, since God is working in us, we can do all things without murmuring or disputing. We should not murmur against God, His man, one another or the ungodly world.

Murmuring is a secret debate. It is the expression of behind the back discontentment. Disputing is first a hesitation, then doubting, suspicion, deliberating, reasoning and finally arguing. Murmuring turns into stoked up anger, strife, shame, sorrow, scattering, Spirit grieved and spanking.

\*The center fielder has just made another error. The manager came out screaming at him. The manager ordered the young man to the dugout and the manager took his place in center field. The ball was hit, it took a bad hop and the manager was busted him in the mouth. The next ball was a high fly ball, the manager had trouble with the sun and it hit him in the forehead. The next ball was a line drive, which the manger charged, but he misread it and it smacked his eye. Furiously the manger ran back to the dugout and grabbed the center fielder by the arm. The manger said "you idiot! You have center filed so messed up that even I can't do anything with it."

You see our complaining attitude does not express the salvation we have inside. We must abstain from these attitudes in order to show ourselves as true followers of God.

Paul said we should be "blameless." I realized we may be blamed, but we will be found faultless. 1 Timothy 3:10 says that a deacon should be found blameless.

### **Daniel 6:4**

*[4] Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.*

Pilate said of Jesus "*I find no fault in Him.*"

### **Acts 24:16**

*[16] And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*

Not only should a Christian be blameless but he should be harmless. Harmless meaning that we are peaceful, non threatening and of pure motives. We are to be the "sons of God."

### **John 1:12**

***[12] But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:***

We are to be "***without rebuke***", which means above reproach. Rebuke means to show error. Though we live in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, we are to shine as lights in the world. Though the world is filled with darkness, Matthew 5:16 let your let so shine before men.  
\* You do not have to blow your neighbors light out for yours to shine.

The world is "***crooked***", which is dishonest. The world is "perverse" or perverted which is twisted. We should be illuminating, guiding, warning and cheering!

**Philippians 2: [15] That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; [16] Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. [17] Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. [18] For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.**

### **4. The Implications of Life 15-18**

Paul says "***hold forth the word of life.***"

We must apply, observe and give attention to the Word of God, which is life, John 6:63.

Paul says if the church will do this then he as their teacher can have joy.

Paul will rejoice in that the church became more than hearers of the word but became doers. Paul speaks of laboring to the point of exhaustion as an athlete in training.

### **Hebrews 13:17**

***[17] Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.***

### **1Corinthians 15:58**

***[58] forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord***

Paul was willing to be a living sacrifice, Romans 12:1 and share his life with others.

He was willing to preach everywhere, even if it meant his death, he was willing to advance the cause of Christ.

The drink offering was poured out on the burnt offering.

Paul wanted his life to be poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The drink offering evaporates and the sacrifice remains. Paul wanted Jesus to get all the glory!

Paul was a man that had joy in sacrifice and service to the Lord. His desire was for the church to rejoice too.

### **Joshua 24:15**

***[15]....but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.***