

# Living an Obedient Christian Life

## Philippians 2:12-18

**12.** *Therefore, my dear friends,  
as you have always obeyed –  
not only in my presence,  
but now much more in my absence –  
continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,*

***“Therefore, . . .” (2:12a)***



**Christ's example of**  
**humble obedience and**  
**self-sacrifice (Phil2:1-11).**

*“as you have always obeyed –  
not only in my presence,  
but now much more in my absence,” (2:12b)*

*“Obey, even though I’m away from you, and may not be  
with you anymore.”*



## Phil.2:12-18

### Three important instructions

- 1. To Work Out Our Salvation (12,13)**
- 2. To Live Out Our Christian Life (14,15)**
- 3. To Hold Out to the Word of Life (16-18)**



# 1. To Work Out Our Salvation (12,13)

*“continue to work out your salvation” (2:12c)*

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Not work FOR your salvation,  
But work OUT your salvation.



# Three Aspects of Salvation

- 1) Initial Salvation...(Justification)
- 2) Salvation Present...(Sanctification)
- 3) Salvation Future...(Glorification)

## Salvation Present - living the Christian life

- Learning to know the Scriptures thoroughly
- Growing to attain Spiritual maturity
- Serving Jesus faithfully



## A. With fear and trembling

*“with fear and trembling”* (2:12d)

### An Old Testament Phrase

*“fear of human beings in the presence of God and his mighty acts.”*

*“continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence.”*  
(2:12 NET)



## B. With the Help from God

**13.** *“for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His purpose.”*

**Who is doing the work?**

*God is the one who began this good work in us, and he is the one who will carry it on to completion (Philippians 1:6).*



## What is God's purpose?

*(Rom.8:28,29)*

**28.** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

**29.** *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*





## 2. To Live Out Our Christian Life (14,15)

*“Do everything  
without complaining or arguing” (2:14)*

### When we complain ...

- *we lose control of ourselves.*
- *we have an attitude of entitlement.*

### Instead of complaining...do these two things

- To be aware of the presence of God around us.
- To cultivate a life of gratitude in all circumstances (*1 Thess. 5:18*).



*“so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe” (2:15).*

*“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48).*

What is the world around us?

*“crooked and depraved generation” (2:15b)*



***"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).***

***"You are the light of the world.***

***A city on a hill cannot be hidden.***

***Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."***

***(Matthew 5:14-16)***



### 3. To Hold Out the Word of Life (16-18)

**16.** *as you hold out the Word of life –  
in order that I may boast on the day  
of Christ that I did not run or  
labour for nothing.*

***“Word of life,”*** does it means ***“the Scriptures?”***



## 1 John 1:1

*“That which was from the beginning,  
which we have heard, which we  
have seen with our eyes, which we  
looked upon and have touched  
with our hands, concerning  
the word of life....”*



***“So that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain” (2:16)***

**Paul is saying to the Philippians,**

***“Don’t let me run or labor for nothing.***

***I shared the gospel with you so that***

***it would make a difference in your life,***

***and so that you would make a difference in other people’s lives.***

***If you don’t live out the gospel in your own life, and share it with others, then all my work is in vain.”***



**17.** *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.*

**18.** *So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.*

**Paul** says, *“I want to pour my life out... I want to invest it in the people around me...”*

It's this pouring of oneself out ...

It's not being filled up, but it's being poured out.



*“I am glad and rejoice with  
all of you”* (2:17b)

*“So you too should be glad  
and rejoice with me”* (2:18)

We are partners in the gospel.

- We share *salvation* together...
- We share in *evangelism* together
- We share in *Christian growth* together...
- We share in *sacrifice* together...
- We share in *joy* together...

We are partners in the gospel,.. in sacrifice, and in joy.





# Conclusion

1. **To Work Out Our Salvation (12,13)**
  - A. *With Fear & Trembling...*
  - B. *With the Help from God...*
2. **To Live Out Our Christian Life (14,15)**
  - A. *Not Complaining & Arguing...*
  - B. *Be Blameless & Pure...*
  - C. *Like Shining Stars...*
3. **To Hold Out the Word of Life (16-18)**
  - A. *Pour Out like a Drink Offering...*
  - B. *Share our Joy with Others...*



# Three motivations to live an obedient Christian life.

1. God is working in you...

2. The world is watching your life...

3. Others have poured themselves out for you...

