



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 069: Philippians Study 4 Salvation Made Complete

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Read Philippians 2:12-30

Introduction: Paul opens the next section with 'therefore.' He has just written about what lengths Christ went to for our salvation, so he is saying here "Your salvation cost Christ a lot; *therefore* you should not waste it, but put it into good effect in your life".

1. Work out your own salvation (v12). The Greek word for "work out" has the sense of bringing something to completion. The work of Christ is complete (remember His last words on the Cross? (John 19:30), so what must we still bring to completion?

Do so *with fear and trembling*. What do you think this means? What do the commentators say?

2. God will help you do this. *God is at work in you* (v13). See also Eph 2:10. It's the Holy Spirit Who brings conviction and is forever seeking to make you like Christ. How might God help us improve? Notice why God does this – for whose benefit?

3. Do it without complaining and disputing (v14). If we're complaining about what God is doing in us and expecting us to do, who are we complaining against?

4. What we should be in our society

(i.e. in a *crooked and perverse generation*) (vs15-16a).

- *blameless* Why?
- *harmless* What did Jesus use to illustrate being harmless (Matt 10:16)?
- *children of God* How? (see Luke 6:35.)
- *without fault* This means giving no one a justifiable excuse to find fault.
- *lights in the world* Remember where Jesus said this (Matt 5:14)?
- *holding fast the word of life* This can mean either keeping firmly to God's word as our authority and guide; or holding it out to others – to make it known to them. In practice it should be both.

5. Paul's goal and joy (vs 16b-18). What is the "*day of Christ*"? Notice in what Paul will rejoice in that day.

Paul reckons himself as one *poured out as a drink offering*. What do the commentators say about this strange expression?

6. Timothy (vs 19-24). Always a close attendant to Paul, Timothy was with him in Rome, looking after his needs. What was Paul planning to ask Timothy to do?

7. Epaphroditus (vs 25-30). The Church in Philippi had sent him to minister to Paul's needs. He had been ill, but had now recovered, to what was causing Paul some concern?

To think about: Is the salvation that Christ won for me being increasingly effective in my life?

To dig deeper: Read a few commentaries on this passage, in particular verses 12-16, noting how one's salvation should be manifested in one's life.