

Philippians

(9) Believer's Ins and Outs

Phil 2:12-16 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, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 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 labor for nothing. NIV

The Divine Cooperative ...2:12-13

How does Paul connect his next teachings with the humbling of Christ (2:7-9)? 2:12

Therefore, my dear friends. He urges them, his dear friends, to continue to obey.

And what was it that he wanted them to obey? 2:12b see 1:1 ICor.9:24-27; Titus 3:4-7

Continue (keep on doing) to work out your salvation. Not work for, to obtain. Finish it.

While the believer is working *OUT* his salvation, what is God doing? 2:13a; IICor.3:5

He is working *IN* you. 2:12 is only possible because He is doing 2:13!!

So is the believer supposed to *do it all*, or to ‘surrender’ and let God do it all? Jn.15:5; Col.1:29

Yes and No! We are clearly commanded to work, yet without Him, you can do nothing.

And what is to be our motive? 2:12b; Is.66:1-2; Ps.111:10

It is to be with fear (fright, terror, Mt.14:26) and trembling (shaking, Mt.16:8).

What does this kind of living look like? 2:12-16; ICor.9:24-27; Heb.12:1-3

It's serious, purposeful living! A life of self-denial and steadfast focus on His glory!

The admonitions in ‘working out’...2:14-15

What is the *very first thing* Paul encourages them to do? 2:14 see Num.14:26-27; ICor.10:10

He wants them to *not* be complainers and argumentative! We need to be like Christ.

And why is this to be evidenced in our lives? 2:15a; Eph.5:1-2

So we may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault. Be like Christ.

What does Paul recognize about our surroundings? 2:15b Mt.5:14-16; Eph.5:8

We're living in a crooked and depraved generation! Very dark, but we're very bright!

When we live without grumbling/complaining, what are we really doing? 2:16a; Acts 5:20-21

We are holding out the Word of life! Our lives are light in a dark world. Like Christ.

How did Paul view his ministry at this point in time? 2:17-18; Num.15:1-10; Rom.12:1

As a living sacrifice, being poured out in service to God. A sweet aroma to Him.

What was necessary to have this ‘drink offering’? Num.15:10; IPet.4:12

It was an offering by fire. Symbolic of a fiery trial. May or may not be unto death.

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