

True Joy – The Wisdom of Philippians

Dependent Discipline – The Secret to Growing in Christ (Phil 2:12-13)

3-7-10

Scripture Reading – None due to communion

Every Christian wants to grow in their faith and we're commanded to do so.

- 2 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 4:11-15, and Hebrews 5:11-14

Today's text teaches us not only what it means to grow in Christ, but the secret of how to do so.

- Read Philippians 2:12-13

What does Paul mean by “work out your salvation”?

- What he DOESN'T mean is that salvation is something that must be earned and is therefore something that can be lost or taken away based on performance. This is what separates true Biblical Christianity from all other religious systems.
 - Paul was dependent on *Christ's righteousness* not his own (3:9)
 - Paul was SURE of his salvation (1:21-23)
 - Paul was sure of the Philippians' salvation (1:6, 2:5, 2:12b)
- Paul means “You're saved! Now work your salvation out.”
 - Ex. The boss calling you to say, “The job is yours! Now go to work”
 - To work out your salvation means to *obey* and thus *become* more like Christ. To *be* who you are in Christ.
 - Philippians 2:12a and Romans 8:29
 - For the Philippians this meant 1:27 – 2:11

What does Paul mean by “work out your salvation *with fear and trembling*”?

- NOT because they may lose their salvation.
- FOR IT IS GOD who calls you to do it.
 - Ex. The President of the United States calls you to say, “The job is yours! Now go to work.”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- FOR IT IS GOD who *works in you* to make it happen.
 - Ex. God is in us!!! This is beyond the job analogy!
 - Philippians 2:13
 - God in you (HS indwelling)
 - Prophesied – Ez 36:26-27
 - Promised – Jn 14:16-17, Acts 1:5 and 1:8
 - Fulfilled – Acts 2:1-4
 - Result – the rest of Acts
 - Explained – 1 John 3:4-9
 - Because God is in us *He will not allow us* to stay where we are and that can be scary.
 - Ex. Matt Scott (my quote) “Since my baptism God is working in me and on me and calling me to do things and *it’s awesome, but scary.*”

To grow in Christ means to obey and become more like Him. To become who we are. *The secret to this growing in Christ is to work as hard as you can in complete dependence on God remembering at all times that your salvation and standing with Him are ABSOLUTELY SECURE because of Jesus.*

- Phil 2:12-13, Col 1:29, 1 Cor 15:10
- Dependent Discipline – airplane model
- Ex. Lust
 - 3 steps to becoming more like Christ (Eph 4:22-24)
 - Renew your mind
 - What is God asking of you? [Mt 5:27-30 (neg) 1 Tim 5:2 (pos)]
 - God loves you so you can proceed with confidence (Eph 2:8-9)
 - Put of the old self
 - Confess your sins (1 John 1:9)
 - Let Him know that you want to change and are ready to work at it, but that you know you can’t do it on your own and that you need His help.
 - Cut off the intake of *new* lust provoking stimuli

- Identify the lust producing sources in your life and eliminate them (ruthlessly!)
 - media, relationships, people
- Fight the *old* lust provoking stimuli
 - Take every thought captive (2 Cor 10:5)
- Put on new self
 - Replace thoughts with Scripture, prayer, ministry plans
 - Develop pure habits and patterns of behavior
 - Get others involved
 - Fellowship, Prayer, and Accountability
 - Preach the Gospel to yourself *every day*

When we work out our salvation with fear and trembling God is pleased.
Phil 2:13

It was Jesus and His work on the cross that made all of this possible
(communion)