

8-7-24 – Philippians – Week 5

Intro. Last week... “How to live” as Christians guide.

Phil. 2:12-13 – NIV – “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 & trembling**, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will & to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

- “**work out your salvation**” - curious phrase. **Doesn’t mean** – earn/work.
- “**Work out**” – as used here - to bring it out. Give birth. **Works in us.**
 - To have clarity? **Context.** More clear by next passage. Look at prior verses: “in your relationships, have the mind of Christ.” Servant.
 - Look to **other translations** for clarity. **Phil. 2:12 NLT** - “Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.”
 - Live “w/ fear & trembling” – “reverence and fear” **Fear.**
 - **Christian faith:** God is good. God is our friend. We can draw near to Him b/c Jesus died on the cross. *So why, then, we are supposed to fear God?* **Let’s discuss!** **“fear God”** – 270x in Bible
 - **Deut. 10:20** – “You are to fear the LORD your God & serve Him”
 - **Deut. 6:13** – “Fear the LORD your God, serve Him only, and take your oaths in His name.”
 - **Deut. 13:4** – “You are to follow the LORD your God and fear Him. Keep His commandments & listen to His voice; serve Him & hold fast to Him.”
 - **Psalms 2:11** – “Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”
 - Some say “fear God” is to have **awe/wonder/respect**... true, but does not fully embrace attitude towards God.
 - “Reverence and fear” – 2 separate feelings.
 - Solomon considered fear truly important: **Eccl. 5:7 NIV** - “Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore fear God.”
 - Fear can be **healthy** or **negative**. Fear a bully. Mean Drunk.
 - Healthy fear keeps us safe. Make wise choices.
 - Stove. Seat belt. Dad/rifle.
 - **This concept of fear is connected to obedience:**

- [Psalm 119:120](#) – “My flesh trembles in awe of You; I stand in fear of Your judgments.”
- [Eph. 6:6](#) – “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.”
- The concept of fear of God is a **healthy fear**.
 - God *intends* we have a *healthy* fear to keep us from making poor decisions, contrary to His commands.
 - **Nehemiah 5:9** – “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our foreign enemies?”
 - **Nehemiah 5:15** – “The governors before me had heavily burdened the people . . . Their servants also oppressed the people, but I did not do this because of my fear of God.”
 - **Joseph** explained his actions to his bros by saying: “I am a God-fearing man.” – **Gen. 42:18**
 - **Abraham** - worried about actions of people who lived near him: [Gen. 20:11](#) – “Surely the fear of God *is* not in this place”
 - If we *believe God’s guidelines are for our good*, we ought to want to obey Him/live in His laws/submit... respect.
 - But there are times our human nature also needs Fear of God.
 - This is a **healthy fear** of God; knowing 2 ways of living:
 - Deut. 28-30 explains Blessings & Curses. We choose.
 - So we need both “Reverence & Fear” – 2 feelings.
 - God is all-powerful. Merciful. Righteous. And **just**.
 - And - we can still affirm that God is Good... Loving:
 - [Psalm 25:14](#) - “The Lord is a friend to those who fear Him.”
 - [Psalm 103:17](#) - “from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children”
 - V. 13- “for it is God who works in you to will & to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”
 - **Purpose** – God gives us will & ability to act... to live. For a purpose.
 - What do you think is your purpose? \$. Fame. Better World?
 - Nope – “You are the light of the world.” - **Matt. 5:14**
 - **Higher purpose.** A light to shine for all to see.

- **Matt. 5:15** – God’s Word Transl – “No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead, everyone who lights a lamp puts it on a lamp stand. Then its light shines on everyone in the house.”

Phil. 2:14-16 – NIV – “¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless & pure, “children of God without fault in a warped & crooked generation.” Then you will **shine among them like stars in the sky** ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.”

Followers of Jesus should live a life that’s different ... shining in darkness.

- Too many grumblers. Too many argue. Complain. Stir up ...
 - Be different. Not **pink**... Live pure. **Deut. 32** – “warped & crooked”
- Paul’s pleasure at the end of life is his impact on others.
- Not his power... wealth... travel... that he could lead others to follow Jesus / be lights that shine on a hill

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- **Song of Week – “Who I Thought You Were” – by Olivia Lane**