

Work Out ... No Matter What

Jon Sherman, Lead Pastor

2.7.2016

Philippians 2:12-13

SAY WHAT? Dance like there's nobody watching

Colossians 3:22-23, Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

SO WHAT? We work out

Romans 3:23-24, ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 28:14, Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens his heart falls into trouble.

NOW WHAT? God works in

Colossians 1:29, To this end I labor, striving with all the energy which He mightily works within me.

- Augustine, "We will, but God works the will in us. We work, therefore, but God works the working in us."

Ephesians 2:10, For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on February 7, 2016
Work Out... No Matter What – Philippians 2:12-13

■ Questions for “Personal Growth”

- **Monday: One church under God...** Please review by reading Philippians 2:1-11, where Paul describes the unity that the church of Philippi, and all churches, should have. From last week's study, how do unity and “worthy conduct” go hand in hand? Were you able to demonstrate an attitude of humility, encouragement, consolation, fellowship and/or mercy to other believers this past week? If so, how was it received? If not, make an added effort to reach out in this way.
- **Tuesday: Therefore, obey...** Now, please read Philippians 2:12-18, focusing on vv.12-13. What word does v.12 begin with? Again, what is the “therefore” there for? What are some of the motivating factors that should prompt our obedience? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19) What should our response be? (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 4:19) What awaits those reject and refuse to obey the gospel of Christ? (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Hebrews 10:26-31) Are you aware of any areas of disobedience in your own life? Specifically confess those – with the confidence that God will forgive you (1 John 1:9).
- **Wednesday: Exercise class...** In Philippians 2:12, there are various interpretations regarding how the word “salvation” is to be understood. Some believe that it applies to us, personally / individually, in that we are to “work out our personal salvation with fear and trembling.” Others believe that it refers to working out our Christian faith as a congregation with fear and trembling. With vv. 1-11 in mind, which interpretation do you believe it is referring to, and why? The phrase “work out” (*katergazomai* in Greek) means to “achieve, accomplish, bring about, create” and is used in the present tense – implying a continuous action. As you meditate upon its meaning in this passage, what comes to mind? How can we work out the implications of our salvation as individuals and as a church?
- **Thursday: The God Effect...** Please meditate upon v.13 again. What two things does God want to “produce” in us? Note: “to work” is used twice with a similar word, (*Gk., energeo*), which is where the English word “energize” comes from. This means to operate, produce, be effective and/or affect something. “To will” is to want or desire. Think about the logical end if we have only one and not the other (i.e. only the will but not the work, or only the work but not the will). How do we maintain both in our daily lives?
- **Friday: He who was promised!** What does Paul mean by working out our salvation “with fear and trembling”? These two words convey “the fear of one who distrusts his /her own ability completely to meet all requirements.” Also read Philippians 1:28 and Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. How does knowing that God gives you the desire to act according to His purpose affect your spirit? What is your personal responsibility as a believer and recipient of His great work in you?