

Philippians 2:12-30

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely

concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Community Group Study 29 Nov 2009

Introduction

In the previous passage we looked at what Paul had explained regarding the humility, incarnation and exaltation of Christ. He then starts this passage by referring to it with the word 'therefore'. He also starts the passage by urging the readers to work out their salvation.

What are the implications of the gospel for our lives? Our responsibility is to work **out** the implications. He then says that God's work of salvation is **in** our lives. We can work out the implications because it is God who is working in us.

In the rest of the passage Paul encourages them to shine like stars, he describes his joy at being poured out like a drink offering, says that he is sending Timothy to them, and then describes Epaphroditus' willingness to risk his life for the gospel.

Discussion

- >>What comfort is it that 'it is God who works in you to will and to work according to his good pleasure'.
- >>What are some of the 'outworkings of the gospel' that we see in the rest of the passage?
- >>What can we learn about serving others from people like Timothy and Epaphroditus?

Explanation

- >>What does it mean to work out your salvation with fear and trembling?
- >>What does Paul mean when he says that he is being poured out like a drink offering?
- >>Why does Paul value genuine concern for others' welfare above other strengths and talents?

Application

- >>What are the implications of your salvation on your life?
- >>What would it look like for you to live for the 'interests of Jesus Christ'?
- >>How can we live our lives to better reflect Timothy and Epaphroditus' concern for and service to others?