

**GOD AND I WORK TOGETHER**

**(Philippians 2:12 – 16)**

**INTRODUCTION** -- Paul is addressing the letter to (1:1) "all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi." He is speaking to the church, brethren, the saved, those who already obeyed the gospel, and the discipline of obedience is now to be practiced in the lives of those who call themselves Christians.

**"as you have always obeyed ... "** - give more attention than ever to the obedience involved in maintaining salvation.

**1. I WILL DO MY PART: (v12) "work out your own salvation"**

**"work out"** - working something through to its full completion; see it to its end; finish.  
(2 Timothy 4:7) "fought the good fight, finished the course, kept the faith"  
Text does not say, "work for"

**"your own salvation"** - no one can do it for you; it is your (individual) responsibility.

**"with fear and trembling"** - with a proper sense of respect and responsibility.  
Be afraid to miss eternal salvation.

Salvation apart from works and salvation unto good works in the same text:

(Eph. 2:8-10) "For by grace you have been saved through faith ... not of works ... created in Christ Jesus for good works ... we should walk in them"

(Titus 2:11-14) "grace of God that brings salvation ... zealous of good works"

(Titus 3:4-5) "according to His mercy He saved us ... (v8) "that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works"

(Hebrews 6:9-12) "yes, things that accompany salvation ... for God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love ... do not become sluggish ... "

Here are some things to help in your "work out" -

(Eph. 6:11) "Put on the whole armor of God" (Col. 3:5-10) "Put off ... put on ... "

(2 Timothy 2:15) "study" (Hebrews 10:23-25) "not forsaking the assembling"

(1 Peter 2:2) "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word ... grow thereby"

(2 Peter 1:5-11) "giving all diligence, add to your faith ... "

**2. GOD WILL DO HIS PART: (v13) "for it is God who works in you"**

While I am working "out," God is working "in," so it is a human-divine cooperative.

(2 Peter 1:3) "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" and then in (v5) "giving all diligence, add to your faith ... "

(Phil. 4:13) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

(Eph. 6:10-11) "brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, Put on the whole armor of God ... "

(1 Cor. 15:10) " ... but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

**"both to will and to do for His good pleasure"** - God works in us to complete His purpose.

### **3. PAUL'S ADMONITION: (v14 – 16) “Do all things ... “**

**“without complaining and murmuring”** - some people do good in the worst way.

**“that you may become blameless and harmless”**

**“blameless”** - live in such a manner that no one can point an accusing finger.

**“harmless”** - pure or unmixed; sincere; (Romans 16:19).

**“children of God without fault (“blemish”)** - be known as law-biding.

**“in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation”** - the world is watching.

**“among whom you shine as lights in the world”** - yes, you shine.

(Matthew 5:16) “Let your light **so shine before men**, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(Ephesians 5:7-8) “Do not become partakers with them. For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

**“hold fast the word of life”**

(1 Thessalonians 5:21) “Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good”

(1 Corinthians 15:58) “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

**CLOSE: (v16) “ ... so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain”**

(Philippians 4:1) “therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”

(1 Thessalonians 2:19-20) “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.”

**(3 John v4) “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth”**