

Philippians Chapter Two B

v. 12 -13 – work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. We don't work for salvation; Jesus did all the work for our salvation on the cross. We are saved by our faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We work out what He has worked in. Now that we are saved, we work to develop the character of God in our lives, that we bear the good fruit of righteousness. We grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We go from glory to glory, progressively becoming more and more like Christ. v.13) and God works in us to desire to do God's will and to enable us to do His will. God helps us to make progress.

v. 14-16 – Do everything without grumbling and complaining. Do everything without arguing. v.15 That we, before the people, can be blameless (they can't point a finger of accusation at us saying we are not being Christ-like) and harmless (pure in heart)—this word was used for wine and metals to indicate that they were not mixed with anything but were pure and genuine. We live this way before people of a crooked and evil world, shining as lights, the true sons of God. v. and holding firm to the message of the gospel, the word of life. Then when Christ returns Paul would be happy and proud of the saints, knowing that his work and efforts were not for nothing—in vain.

v.17-18- Paul's example: he was offered or poured out upon the sacrifice and service of their faith. (Sometimes a drink offering would be poured on to the sacrifice, creating a puff of smoke) and thought brought him joy, caused him to rejoice. (His own blood may have to be poured out) For this reason, you should also rejoice with me. I rejoice with you and you rejoice with me.

v. 19-24 – Timothy's example: Paul's plan was to send Timothy to the Philippians soon so that he could find out how they were doing and report back to Paul, bringing him good comfort. v.20 – for Paul found no one likeminded as Timothy who would sincerely (naturally) care for them. v.21 because many others think of themselves and not of the things of Christ (contrast this verse with 1:21) v.22) He's proven his character already, not only in his care for the saints, but also in the way he has served with Paul in the gospel.v23)Hope to send him as soon as he finds out what's happening with him and his prison sentence. v.24) But He believes that he himself will eventually be able to come to them. We can see from this passage how much Paul loved and valued Timothy. He counted him as a faithful man of integrity, sincere in the work of the Lord and towards his people.

v. 25-30 –Epaphroditus's example: Paul would send Epaphroditus back to them. He counts him as his brother, companion in labor, fellow soldier, their messenger, and acknowledges that he has effectively ministered to him. v.26) But Epaphroditus became ill unto death and (probably) had to stay in Rome longer than expected. But God had mercy on him and healed him. Had mercy on Paul as well for he would have been very sad if Epaphroditus had died. v.29) Received him in the Lord with gladness and honor him for what he has endured for Christ's sake. He gambled with his life to minister to Paul in the stead of the Philippians. It is a good thing to honor those who make sacrifice for the gospel, for Christ's sake. To appreciate, to say a kind word, or just say thank you.