

#### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2:5–11 | 1 Peter 1:4–5 | 2 Corinthians 2:6

#### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 10.6.24

#### SUMMARY

After one of the most concise gospel presentations ever penned in Scripture (Philippians 2:5–11), Paul begins to tell the church at Philippi what response an understanding of this gospel should elicit. Seeing and knowing the example of Christ, followers of Jesus should be committed to obedience. With a certain amount of concern expressed over the fact that Paul is absent from them (and in custody by Rome), how should this affect their obedience to the Lord? Paul tells the church to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Paul frequently uses “salvation” in his numerous New Testament letters, and its use is varied. Paul will reference salvation as something that has already happened (Philippians 1:28–29), is happening now (2 Corinthians 2:6), and that will happen ultimately (Philippians 3:20–21). When anyone believes and confesses their trust in Jesus for salvation, they can rest assured that their faith is sealed and secured; their sins legally absolved from their record, and because of Christ’s righteousness earned on their behalf, they are declared righteous. This work accomplished on the sinner’s behalf is called *justification*. This salvation is final, irreversible, and God’s work alone (1 Peter 1:4–5; Ephesians 2:8). However, salvation has an ongoing component; though Christ has saved us, we still wrestle with sin, slowly dying to sin and living unto righteousness. This ongoing salvation process is called *sanctification*, which is still God’s work, but the Lord calls the believer to participate through obedience to his Word. By the power of his Holy Spirit, he “works in you” (Philippians 2:13a), growing your desire for obedience and working “for his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13b). This work on the individual level will have a natural impact on the corporate level. It is important to remember Paul’s numerous imperatives for unity within the church (Philippians 1:27; 2:2, 14). A united church can only come about if its individual members take seriously (“with fear and trembling”) their ongoing sanctification of pursuing Christ’s mindset (Philippians 2:5).

#### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Philippians 2:12–13.

What is the difference between justification and sanctification? How does your justification help your sanctification?

What are some practical ways of pursuing sanctification? In your own life, which areas do you believe need growth? How can growing in those areas be beneficial for the church at large?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

#### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.