

## **Philippians 2:12-13** **Our Salvation Worked Out**

### **Introduction:**

In the early days of the church there was a monk named Simon Stylites who separated himself from all worldly activity. He climbed a high pillar fifty feet high believing that contamination of sin came from outside of himself. There have been many others in the religious realm who have done similar things all with the hope of being holy.

Martin Luther before his conversion believed that the biggest culprit was his own flesh; so if he could beat himself with whips and starve himself of food and drink, he could eradicate his sinful flesh. Luther learned later from Scripture that this was entirely wrong and that a holy life could only be accomplished by the power of Jesus Christ and the work of sanctification by the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:2, 3)

### **I. Working Out Our Salvation – v.12**

#### **A. A sequel of events in the life of Christ**

1. The connecting word “therefore” (v.8,9)
2. Imperative mood – Sound doctrine leads to practical Christianity

#### **B. No one can work out his salvation unless God has worked in it.**

1. Since we have been raised with Christ – Turn To: Col. 3:1; 3:5-14

#### **C. The people of Israel delivered from Egypt – Phil. 2:14-15 cf. Deut. 32:4,5**

1. The parallel of Deuteronomy text corresponds to the believers at Philippi to leave their former life of deadness in sin to the Christian way of life.

### **II. God Working Out His Purpose In Us – v.13**

#### **A. Even when we work out our salvation we are to know that it is actually God’s Holy Spirit in us who does the work.**

1. Where does this work begin with us? Answer: With our wills.
2. Objection: “You mean I cannot do anything I want to do?”
3. Our wills are limited – John 15:16
4. Adam the only one with a free will and he lost it.

#### **B. Why is Evangelism so important to the Church?**

1. Answer: It is important because without it people will never come to Christ to be saved from their sins. Rom. 3:10-11; John 6:44
2. In evangelism “Word” is coupled with “Spirit”
3. Miracles do not save souls; only the power of the Holy Spirit saves souls.

#### **C. God’s Good Purpose:**

1. Our wills conformed to God’s will.
2. Paul’s focus is upon what God performs through us – See Eph. 2:8-10
3. God is satisfied and pleased with the good works done by Christians when they are done by the power of Jesus Christ

### **Conclusion:**

1. *Work out your salvation by being sensitive to the Spirit. This is our responsibility. Therefore do not quench the Spirit. Turn To: I Thess. 5:19-23*
2. *Work out your salvation with fear and trembling – Prov. 1:7; 9:10; Psa. 111:10; Isa. 66:2*