

# COMMITMENT

## Living Together in God's Family

Discussion Guide  
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### Working Out What God Is Doing Within—Part 2

Philippians 2: 12-13

**Introduction:** Two weeks ago when we preached on this passage of Scripture, we barely scratched the surface with respect to the depth of its meaning and its application to our daily Christian living. For that reason, we turn again to Paul's admonition to the church at Philippi to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

#### Sermon Outline

- I. **The Necessity of the Effort—"work out your salvation ..."** (v. 12)
  - A. Remember the context ("to all the saints ... who are in Philippi ...")
  - B. This has nothing to do with *working for* your salvation (Eph. 2: 8-9)
  - C. This has everything to do with the *application* of our salvation
  - D. The significance of the phrase "with fear and trembling?"
- II. **The Application of the Effort—"Have this attitude in yourselves ..."** (v. 5)
  - A. Unity of mind, spirit, love, and purpose (v. 2)
  - B. Absence of selfishness and conceit (v. 3)
  - C. Consider the interest of others above our own interests (vs. 3-4)
  - D. Set aside grumbling and disputes (v. 14)
  - E. The ultimate mind-set: Be like Christ (vs. 5-11)
  - F. We are to appear as lights to the world (v. 15)
- III. **The Goal of the Effort: Knowing God** (Chapter 3)
  - A. How do we really get to know the Living God—Creator of Heaven and Earth?
    1. Prayer: intimate conversation and a learned behavior
    2. Getting to know the God of the Bible (Heb. 5: 12)
    3. Maturity is a commandment, not an option (see Eph. 4: 13-15)
  - B. Knowing God comes down to this: Obedience
  - C. Live by the "One Another Commandments"
  - D. Reaching the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (vs. 3: 13-14)

#### Small Group Questions:

- 1.) Are there other words used in the Bible that exhort, encourage, and/or admonish us to make the effort to "work out our salvation?" Provide Scriptural examples.
- 2.) From a personal standpoint, what do you find to be the most difficult or challenging thing about "working out your salvation?"
- 3.) What significance does attitude play with respect to all of this? Explain.
- 4.) The term "the fear of the Lord" is used over 25 times in the Old and New Testaments (14 times in Proverbs alone). What is the significance of Paul's use of the term *fear and trembling* with respect to "working out our salvation?"
- 5.) In Philippians 3: 13 Paul said "... forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ..." What do you think he meant, and how does it relate to our "pressing on toward the goal ..."?
- 6.) What are some things you feel convicted by the Holy Spirit to do in order to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Philippians 2: 3-4  
(NASB)

*So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; <sup>15</sup> so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ...*

Philippians 2: 12-15



Alliance Bible Church  
of  
McHenry, IL

www.mchenryalliance.com

## GOD'S COMMANDMENTS CONCERNING ONE ANOTHER

**Abound in love** for one another (I Thessalonians 3: 12)  
**Accept** one another ... as Christ accepted you (Romans 15: 7)  
**Admonish** one another (Colossians 3: 16; Romans 15: 14)  
**Bear** one another's burdens (Galatians 6: 2)  
**Bearing** with one another (Colossians 3: 13)  
**Be at peace** with one another (Mark 9: 50)  
**Be devoted** to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12: 10)  
**Be hospitable** to one another without complaint (I Peter 4: 9)  
**Be kind and tender-hearted** to one another (Ephesians 4: 32)  
**Be of the same mind** towards one another (Romans 12: 16)  
**Be patient**, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2)  
**Be subject** to one another in the fear of Christ (Ephesians 5: 21)  
**Build up** one another (I Thessalonians 5: 11)  
**Care** for one another (I Corinthians 12: 25)  
**Carry** each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)  
**Clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another (I Peter 5:5)  
**Comfort** one another with these words (I Thessalonians 4: 18)  
**Confess your sins** to one another (James 5: 16)  
**Consider** others better than yourself (Philippians 2: 3)  
**Do not grumble** against each other (James 5: 9)  
**Do not lie** to each other (Colossians 3: 9)  
**Do not slander** one another (James 4: 11)  
**Employ** it [*i.e., our special gifts*] in serving one another (I Peter 4: 10)  
**Encourage** one another (I Thessalonians 5: 11; Hebrews 3: 13; 10: 25)  
**Forgive** one another (Ephesians 4: 32; Colossians 3: 13)  
**Give preference** to one another in honor (Romans 12: 10)  
**Greet** one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16: 16; I Corinthians 16: 20; II Corinthians 13: 12; I Peter 5: 14)  
**Keep fervent** in your love for one another because love covers ... (I Peter 4: 8)  
**Increase and abound** in love for one another (I Thessalonians 3: 12)  
**Let us not become boastful**, challenging one another, envying one another (Galatians 5: 26)  
**Let us not judge** one another (Romans 14: 13)  
**Love** one another (John 13: 34-35; 15: 12, 17; Rom. 13: 8; I Thessalonians 4: 9; I Peter 1: 22; 4: 8; I John 3: 11, 23; 4: 7, 11-12; II John 5)  
**Pray** for one another (James 5: 16)  
**Show forbearance** to one another in love (Ephesians 4: 2)  
**Speak** to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5: 19)  
**Stimulate** one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10: 24)  
**Teach and admonish** one another (Colossians 3: 16)  
**Wait** for one another ... when you come together to eat (I Corinthians 11: 33)  
**Walk in the light** ... have fellowship with one another (I John 1: 7)  
**Wash** one another's feet (John 13: 14)

**GOD'S PERFECT AND PERFECTING LOVE PERFECTLY DEFINED: I Corinthians 13: 4-8**

**Herb F. Burnap**  
Associate Pastor  
*Alliance Bible Church of McHenry, IL*

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