

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:13

**for it is God who works in you both to will and
to do for His good pleasure.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

The image features a circular teal graphic centered on a background of weathered, greyish-brown wood planks. The word "PHILIPPIANS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the teal circle. A thin white horizontal line is positioned directly below the text.

PHILIPPIANS

PHILIPPIANS

Part 9

Working Out What
God Has Worked In

Philippians 2:12-13

We have learned...

- Paul founded the assembly in Acts 16 about 49AD and wrote them from house arrest in Rome about 62AD
- He loved them and they loved him
- They prayed for each other and they sent Paul money, even when no one else did
- He urged them to be humble and used Jesus as the perfect example of humility
- Because of this, God exalted Him

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

“Therefore...”

This means to the purpose or result based on the previous verses: *Philippians 2:1-11*.

My beloved... the root word for “*beloved*” is **agape**.

Always obeyed... Obey means “to under hear” or “hear under” and refers to listening and doing what is said, and **obeying under the authority of another**.

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

They were remaining faithful to what he said to them about 13 years before!

They obeyed “*much more.*” “More” refers to something better than the good or prioritizing something higher or above something else as more important.

Work out your own salvation... 3 things this is **NOT!**

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

First, he is not saying they work for their salvation. Salvation is a gift from God, by grace through faith...

Second, today the wording can mean – It will work out in the end, so don't worry about it.

Third, he's not saying to work out salvation as they thought, based on whatever path they thought they should take for salvation. Jesus is the **ONLY** way!

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

The word "you" is plural, so it's "you all." He is *talking to the congregation*. While the word for "work out" can refer to *making every effort to obtain or reach salvation*, here it has to do with *something with a result that followed*. It is a *command in the present continuous tense*. Paul **commanded** them to *live out or work out salvation, all the time*. The word "your" can also be translated "your own." This is **plural...**

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

...*with fear and trembling* – NET Bible notes: "Paul's use of the terms in other contexts refers to "awe and reverence in the presence of God" (P. T. O'Brien, *Philippians* [NIGTC]...). The translation "awe and reverence" was chosen to portray the attitude the believer should have toward God as they consider their behavior in light of God working through Jesus Christ (2:6-11) and in the believer's life (2:13) to accomplish their salvation."

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

The root word is *phobos*, which is where we get "*phobia*." It can refer to *withdrawing from something because of dread or fright*. It can refer to *being drawn to something because it is fearful or awe inspiring!* The word translated "*trembling*" means "*trembling, quaking and fear*." This phrase is about **one who does not put confidence in oneself to meet certain requirements or criteria, but does his or her best to fulfill one's duty, thus the *fear and trembling*.**

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

Justification – God declaring the sinner righteous, occurs once.

Glorification – when Jesus returns and we get our new glorified bodies.

Sanctification - 2 tenses: **Positional** and **Practical**. Positionally we are “set apart” by God, for God and for His purposes. Practically, we live our lives continuously being conformed into Christ likeness.

A. 2:12 – Work Out Your Salvation

This is about **depending on Him**. This is about the *fruit of salvation in our lives*. So, is there love, joy, peace, long-suffering or patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, love for truth, passion for knowing Christ and things the Holy Spirit changes in our lives?

If there is no fruit, there is no root!

B. 2:13 – Because God Works In You

In *working out salvation*, we are doing what God has worked in us by His grace. **God** comes first in this verse, though there were no verse breaks in the original. **God** is the focus and *literally* it says, "God is indeed [*expressing the cause*] the One working..."

B. 2:13 – Because God Works In You

The word for "work" here is *different* than in verse 12 and the 2 *versions* of "work" here are based on the same word for "energy."

Strong's defines this: "*energize, working in a situation which brings it from one stage (point) to the next, like an electrical current energizing a wire, bringing it to a shining light bulb.*" **God is energizing us to go from one point or stage of maturity to the next!**

B. 2:13 – Because God Works In You

He is *continually, constantly, moment by moment working in our lives*. He is conforming us to the *likeness of Jesus* and *leading us in paths of righteousness* for His Names sake.

We must ask: *In context, to what is Paul referring?*

The rest of the verse *answers that question*. God *works in us* to do 2 things: **to will** and **to do**.

B. 2:13 – Because God Works In You

*"To will" means **desire**. God works in our desire to do or carry out what is best. God changes our desires when we come to know Him.*

To do, or "to work" as in verse 12 refers to energy, a supernatural energy that brings something from one stage to the next. It is in the continuous action...

*This is the action or **outworking of what God is doing in our lives and hearts**, all of the time.*

B. 2:13 – Because God Works In You

For His good pleasure... While there are always benefits to obeying and following the Lord, the greater goal or purpose is for His pleasure, satisfaction or His delight.

This is a relational concept!

The work He does in our lives is *first for His glory, and secondarily for our benefit!*

B. 2:13 – Because God Works In You

“God does not work because man works. Rather, man can and must work because God has worked and is working (H-M142)... God's work and the believer's efforts are coextensive, thereby excluding, as non-Pauline, any kind of synergism whereby some "division of labor" might come into play between God and the Philippians...”

Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament - Philippians.