

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Three : Experiencing Christ as our constant salvation

I. Overview:

The salvation in Philippians 2:2 is not eternal salvation from God's condemnation and from the lake of fire but the daily and constant salvation that is Christ as a living person. To work out our own salvation is to obey God operating in us both the willing and the working. Obedience to God slays all murmurings and reasonings. In the midst of the dark and corrupt world, our function is to shine as luminaries, holding forth the word of life. Philippians 2:5-16 reveals the divine and rich provision for our constant salvation: we have the Lord Jesus as our pattern; we have God operating in us; we are God's children having God's life and nature; we are luminaries qualified to reflect the divine light of Christ; we have the word of life to hold forth to others.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound what salvation in Philippians 2:12 is.

The salvation in Philippians 2:12 is not eternal salvation from God's condemnation and from the lake of fire but the daily salvation that is a living person. This daily salvation results from taking the very Christ whom we live, experience, and enjoy as our inward as well as outward pattern. The main elements of this salvation are Christ as the crucified life and Christ in His exaltation.

B. What is to work out our salvation?

To work out our salvation is to work out this pattern and to become in our experience a reprint of the pattern. In making a book, each page of type is reprinted again and again until there are many copies. In our experience, the God-man Savior should be reprinted and become our subjective salvation. The very salvation we are to work out is Christ as our pattern.

Day 2 —

A. Expound that to work out our own salvation is to bring it to the ultimate conclusion.

We have received God's salvation, which has as its climax to be exalted by God in glory as the Lord Jesus was. We need to carry out this salvation, to bring it to its ultimate conclusion, by our constant and absolute obedience with fear and trembling. We have received this salvation by faith. Now we must carry it out by obedience. This includes the genuine oneness in our soul to carry it out.

B. Explain in Philippians 2:12 Paul charges us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Fear is the inward motive; trembling is the outward attitude. In God's economy we have the Lord Jesus as our pattern, as the standard of our salvation, and we also have God operating in us both the willing and the working to carry out our salvation. The only thing we need to do is to obey the inner operating of God. The willing is inward, whereas the working is outward.

Day 3 —

A. Expound where within us the willing in Philippians 2:13 take place.

It must be in our will. This indicates that God's operation begins from our spirit and spreads into our mind, emotion, and will. God's operating to will in us involves not only our spirit but also our will. Therefore, God's operation must spread from our spirit into our will, and then into our physical body.

B. Present the warning issued by Paul: "Do all things without murmurings and reasonings."

Murmurings are out of our emotion, mostly on the part of the sisters; reasonings are out of our mind, mostly on the part of the brothers. Both frustrate us from carrying out our salvation to the fullest extent, from experiencing Christ to the uttermost. If we murmur or reason, we do not obey. Obedience to God slays all murmurings and reasonings.

Day 4 —

A. Explain in Philippians 2:15 Paul says, "That you may be blameless and guileless,..."

The word “guileless” also means “simple, artless, innocent; hence, harmless”. The word blameless describes our outward behaviour, and the word guileless, our inward character. To be artless means not to play politics. No one who is political can rightly be called guileless. If we are artless, we are also guileless and harmless.

B. Explain Paul in verse 16 goes on to say, “Holding forth the word of life,...”

The word for holding forth also means “applying, presenting, offering.” To hold forth the word of life is to present it to others, to offer it to them, to apply it to them. If God operates in us and we are filled with the Word, then wherever we are and whatever we say or do, we shall be an expression of the living God. This is to hold forth the word of life. This is also to live Christ, to express Christ, and to work out our salvation.

Day 5 —

A. Explain these two portions of salvation in Philippians 1:19-21 and 2:12-16.

In Philippians 1:19-21 we have salvation, the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the magnifying of Christ, and the living of Christ. In 2:12-16 we have the matters of working out our own salvation, of God operating in us, and of holding forth the word of life. In these two portions of Philippians we have two lines: the first line is salvation, the Spirit, and Christ; the second line is salvation, God, and the word.

B. Expound in Ephesians 6:17-18 Paul tells us to receive two aspects of the Word and the Spirit.

Here Paul covers the aspects both of the Word and of the Spirit. Furthermore, he tells us to receive the Word of God by means of all prayer, praying at every time in spirit. We may receive the Word of God by means of all kinds of prayer, which is pray-reading. When we pray-read the Word, it becomes to us the living breath of God, the Spirit. As a result, we are watered, nourished, refreshed, and enlightened.

Day 6 —

A. How should we sing and psalm the Word of God according to Colossians 3:16?

Oh, we need to sing and psalm the Word of God! To sing the Word is better than reading it, and to psalm the Word is even better than singing it. Psalming the Word includes musing upon it and enjoying it. As we psalm the Word, we dwell upon it, muse on it, and enjoy it, thereby giving more opportunity for the Word to saturate us.

B. What Does it reveal to us that Ephesians 5:18-19 is parallel to Colossians 3:16?

When we put these verses together, we see that we should be filled in spirit with the word of Christ. These two portions of the Word have the same goal that we should have our spirit filled with the Word. When the element of Christ has been infused into us by our singing and psalming the Word, we live Christ spontaneously and automatically.

III. Conclusion:

The salvation in Philippians 2:12 is not eternal salvation from God’s condemnation and from the lake of fire but the daily and constant salvation that is Christ as a living person. To work out our own salvation is by our obedience to cooperate with God who operates in us. In the negative side, murmurings and reasonings are the two gophers within us; obedience to God slays all murmurings and reasonings. In the positive side, in the midst of the dark and corrupt world, which is usurped by Satan, our function is to become luminaries shining in the world. We ourselves have no light at all, but we have the heavenly power to reflect Christ as the light. Christ is the sun, with the church as the moon and the believers as the planets to reflect Him by holding forth the word of life. To hold forth the word of life is identical to living Christ. Whenever we live Christ, we hold forth the word of life.