

KNOWING

I. **The salvation in Philippians 2:12 is Christ as a living person, who is our daily and constant salvation**

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—Phil. 2:12:

A. This constant salvation results from our experience and enjoyment of Christ as the pattern—Phil. 2:5-11; cf. 1 Pet. 2:21:

This practical, daily, moment-by-moment salvation results from taking the very Christ whom we live, experience, and enjoy as our inward as well as outward pattern:

- When this pattern becomes our inward life, the pattern becomes our salvation; to work out our salvation is to work out this pattern and to become in experience a reprint of this pattern.

B. And this constant salvation is one in which any believer is saved from ordinary things in his daily living—Phil. 1:19; 2:12:

The constant salvation in Philippians 1:19 is one in which a particular believer is saved from a specific encounter in a particular situation, whereas the constant salvation in 2:12 is one in which any believer is saved from ordinary things in common situations in his daily living.

[Phil 1:19] For I know that for me this will turn out to **salvation** through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

[Phil 2:12] So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own **salvation** with fear and trembling.

II. **We must coordinate with Christ to let Him be our constant salvation until we carry out this salvation**

To work out our own salvation is to carry it out, to bring it to the ultimate conclusion—Phil. 2:12:

A. The climax of our salvation is our being exalted by God in glory as the Lord Jesus was—Phil. 2:9:

We have received God's salvation, which has as its climax our being exalted by God in glory as the Lord Jesus was.

B. Now we need to carry out this salvation by our absolute obedience to the inward guidance of the Spirit with fear and trembling—Phil. 2:12; 1 Sam. 15:22:

Now we need to carry out this salvation, to bring it to its ultimate conclusion, by our constant and absolute obedience with the inward motive of fear and the outward attitude of trembling.

C. That is to obey God Himself operating in us, to carry out this salvation—Phil. 2:12-13:

The inner operating God Himself is our salvation, and obedience to Him is the working out of our salvation.

[Phil. 2:13] For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure.

EXPERIENCE

III. Our cooperation is to obey the inner operating God

The reason we need to obey always is that God operates in us—Phil. 2:13:

A. **It is that God operates in us to carry out our salvation—cf. Col. 1:29:**

It is not that we by ourselves carry out our salvation but that God operates in us to do it; the only thing we need to do is to obey the inner operating, energizing God.

B. **The very God is Christ in us and the Spirit in us—Rom. 8:11:**

The God who operates in us as our subjective salvation is the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—the very God who is Christ in us and the Spirit in us.

IV. For it is God who operates in us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure

God operates in us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure—Phil 2:13:

A. **The willing is within; the working is without.**

B. **The willing takes place in our will**, indicating that God's operation begins from our spirit and spreads into our mind, emotion, will, and eventually into our physical body—Rom. 8:10, 6, 11.

C. **To make us to reach the climax of God's salvation—Eph. 1:5; cf. Rom. 5:10, 17:**

The good pleasure of God's will is to operate in us so that we may reach the climax of His supreme salvation.

V. Murmurings and reasonings frustrate us from carrying out our salvation to the fullest extent

Murmurings and reasonings frustrate us from carrying out our salvation to the fullest extent and from experiencing and enjoying Christ to the uttermost—Phil 2:14:

A. **Murmurings are of our emotion, reasonings are of our mind, both are the problems with our soul:**

Murmurings are of our emotion and come mainly from the sisters; reasonings are of our mind and come mainly from the brothers.

B. **Murmurings and reasonings are due to disobedience to God:**

Murmurings and reasonings are due to disobedience to God; obedience to God slays all murmurings and reasonings.

C. **We should do not have murmuring and reasoning, but become children of God without blemish—Phil. 2:15:**

We should do all things without murmurings and reasonings in order that we may become blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish:

[Phil 2:15] That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world.

[Matt 10:16] Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Be therefore prudent as serpents and guileless as doves.

- **Blameless** describes our outward behavior, and **guileless** our inward character; as children of God, we have God's life and nature—Matt. 10:16; John 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:4.

RESULT

VI. The enjoyment of Christ as our constant salvation makes us to shine as luminaries in the world, holding forth the word of life
In the midst of the dark and corrupt world, which is usurped by Satan, our function is to shine as luminaries, holding forth the word of life—1 John 5:19; Phil. 2:15-16:

A. We are as luminaries to reflect the glory of Christ:

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.

B. To hold forth the word of life by living out Christ—Acts 5:20:

To hold forth the word of life is to apply it, to present it, and to offer it to the world by living out Christ.

VII. The more we experience Christ as our constant salvation, the more we live Christ out

Philippians 2:12-16 is a definition of living Christ in 1:19-21—Phil 2:12-16; 1:19-21:

A. The God who operates in us is the supplying Spirit—Phil. 2:13; 1:19.

B. To shine as luminaries is to magnify Christ, and to hold forth the word of life is to live Christ—Phil. 2:15-16; 1:20-21:

C. So the only way to live Christ is to be saturated with the word of life (Christ)—Col. 3:16:

The only way to live Christ is to be saturated with the word of life:

- If we are filled with the riches of the living Word day by day, spontaneously we will hold forth the word of life; this is to live Christ that He may be magnified in us.

VIII. For this constant salvation is Christ as the living person, who is the divine and rich provision for our experience and enjoyment

Philippians 2:5-16 reveals the divine and rich provision for our constant salvation—Phil 2:5-16:

A. We accept the Lord Jesus as our person—Phil. 2:6-11:

We have the Lord Jesus as our pattern.

B. To let him operating in us all the time—Phil. 2:13:

We have God operating in us.

C. Then we are like Him to have God's life and the divine nature—Phil. 2:15:

We are God's children, having God's life and the divine nature.

D. Being qualified to reflect the divine light of Christ—Phil. 2:15:

We are luminaries qualified to reflect the divine light of Christ.

C. And to hold forth the word of life to others—Phil. 2:16:

We have the word of life to hold forth, to present, to others.

APPLICATION

Every married couple has experienced the exchanging of words. This is a hell. Because the wives murmur and the husbands reason, there are arguments. During the course of such an argument, both the husband and the wife fall into a hell because they are not thinking the one thing. This illustrates how we need to think of the experience and enjoyment of Christ for the church life. If a husband and wife would think one thing, there would be no exchange of words, the wife would be rescued from the hell of the emotion, and the brother would be saved from the hell of the mind. This is a daily, practical, and present salvation.

We all think of the experience of Christ for the Body life. In doing this, we are obedient. Whenever we think other things, we are disobedient and rebellious against God's economy. God's economy is that we think the one thing. If we are enlightened concerning reasoning and murmuring, we shall say, "Lord, forgive my rebellion. I don't want to be a rebel in Your economy. Rather, I want to be obedient, obeying Your economy to think the one thing. Although certain ones have offended me, I do not want to think about the offenses. Instead, I want to think only of the enjoyment and experience of Christ." To do this is to work out our salvation.

<Excerpts from # 2269 "The Experience of Christ" Chapter Five "To Think The One Thing">