

## HWMR - THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST, Week 3

### Experiencing Christ as Our Constant Salvation

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:12-16

- Philippians 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**;
- Philippians 2: 13 - For it is God who operates in you both the **willing and the working** for His good pleasure.
- Philippians 2: 14 - Do all things without **murmurings and reasonings**
- Philippians 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,
- Philippians 2: 16 - Holding forth the **word of life**, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

#### Day 1

#### I. **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:**

- A. 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:
1. The main elements of this salvation are Christ as the crucified life (vv. 5-8) and Christ in His exaltation (vv. 9-11).
  2. When this pattern becomes our inward life, the pattern becomes our salvation.
  3. To work out our salvation is to work out this pattern and to become in experience a reprint of this pattern—cf. 1 Pet. 2:21.
- B. 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.

#### Day 2

#### II. **To work out our own salvation is to carry it out, to bring it to the ultimate conclusion—v. 12:**

- A. We have received God's salvation, which has as its climax our being exalted by God in glory as the Lord Jesus was—v. 9.
- B. 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—v. 12, cf. v. 8; 1 Sam. 15:22.
- C. The inner operating God Himself is our salvation, and obedience to Him is the working out of our salvation—Phil. 2:12-13.

#### III. **The reason we need to obey always is that God operates in us—v. 13:**

##### GOD WORKING IN US

Verse 13 says, "*It is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.*" We can work out our own salvation because **God works within us**. God is mysterious, invisible, and abstract, but He is nonetheless within us. We need to be in fear and trembling lest we miss God, who is our daily salvation. If we miss Him, we miss this practical salvation. It may seem that it is impossible for us to work out our own salvation. If the Philippians had said this, Paul might have replied, "Don't you know that God is working in you? He is working in you both the willing and the working. You may say that you do not have the willingness. But God is working the willingness into you. He is also working in you for the working out of His good pleasure. He works in and you work out. Thus, there is no need for you to do the work by yourself."

Take the example of **driving a car**. When we drive a car, does the car move us, or do we move the car? We do not have the power to move the car. Thus, it is the car that moves us. For us to move the car is extremely difficult. But for the car to move us is an enjoyment. If we are out of gasoline, we must move the car. But if we have plenty of gasoline, the car moves us and we enjoy driving. Likewise, as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling, God is working in us both the willing and the working. Because He works in, we can work out. This is like driving a car that is already running. If the car were not running, we could not drive it. In like manner, because God is working within us, we are able to work. Eventually, this is not something fearful; it is an enjoyment. The only reason to be fearful is that we may miss the mysterious, marvelous God within us. We need to care for the indwelling God. If we take care of Him, He will drive the car; that is, He will work in us so that we may work out our salvation.

(The Experience of Christ, Chapter 5)

- A. 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—cf. Col. 1:29.
- B. 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 (2 Cor. 13:3a, 5) and the Spirit in us (Rom. 8:11).

## Day 3

**IV. 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. 8:4, 6, 11.
- C. The good pleasure of God's will (Eph. 1:5) is to operate in us so that we may reach the climax of His supreme salvation—cf. Rom. 5:10, 17.

**V. 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:**

The way to be saved from the hells of murmuring and reasoning is to obey the word of the apostle Paul to **think the one thing** and to be **one in soul**. When we think the same thing, we do not murmur or reason. Instead, we experience Christ as our enjoyment. Every part of our mind, emotion, and inner being is filled with the experience and enjoyment of Christ.

Although we have been saved from the eternal hell, we still need to be saved from the **small hells** of murmuring, complaining, reasoning, and arguing. 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 need to work out this salvation with fear and trembling.

Paul wanted the Philippians to stop their murmurings and reasonings. But how can people stop murmuring or reasoning? It can only be done by **turning our thinking to the experience of Christ**. Brothers, think this one thing. Sisters, you also think this one thing. If we all think the one thing, there will be no reasonings and murmurings. This is the way to enjoy Christ.

(The Experience of Christ, Chapter 5)

- A. 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**; obedience to God slays all murmurings and reasonings.

## Day 4

- C. We should do all things without murmurings and reasonings in order that we may become **blameless and guileless**, children of God without blemish—v. 15:
  - 1. Blameless describes our **outward behavior**, and guileless our **inward character**; to be guileless is to be simple, artless (not political), or innocent—Matt. 10:16.
  - 2. As children of God, we have God's life and nature—John 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:4.

**VI. In the midst of the dark and corrupt world, which is usurped by Satan (1 John 5:19; 2:15-17), our function is to shine as luminaries, holding forth the word of life—Phil. 2:15-16**

The first part of verse 16 says, "*Holding forth the word of life.*" In this generation we shine as luminaries. We do not shine with our own light. Rather, we are **luminaries** reflecting the **light of Christ**. The world is a satanic system. In the midst of this organized satanic system, we shine as luminaries, holding forth the word of life. There is no need for us to behave. We simply need to think the one thing in order to be full of the enjoyment of Christ. Then we will be blameless, guileless children of God without blemish, shining as luminaries in the midst of the satanic system of this crooked and perverted generation. As we shine, we are holding forth the word of life. This is not our conduct or behavior; **it is our testimony**.

Most of today's Christians are far off the mark. They are taught to behave, to conduct themselves in a certain way. But there is no need for us to behave ourselves, because we are shining as luminaries and holding forth the word of life. This is not behavior; it is a spontaneous testimony, the living out of the Christ whom we experience and enjoy.

Verse 16 also says, "That I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain." If the Lord's servant can boast in us, then everything is all right. But if he does not feel positively about us, then we are in difficulty.

(The Experience of Christ, Chapter 5)

- A. 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 is to apply it, to present it, and to offer it to the world by living out Christ—Acts 5:20.

### Day 5

#### VII. Philippians 2:12-16 is a definition of living Christ in 1:19-21:

- A. The God who operates in us (2:13) is the **supplying Spirit** (1:19).
- B. To shine as luminaries (2:15) is to magnify Christ (1:20), and to hold forth the word of life (2:16) is to live Christ (1:21a).
- C. The only way to live Christ is to be saturated with the **word of life**:
  - 1. The word of life is the living breath of God (2 Tim. 3:16), the Spirit who gives life (John 6:63).
  - 2. We need to **pray-read** the Word, receiving the word of God by means of **all prayer and petition**—Eph. 6:17-18.

### Day 6

- 3. We need to **sing-read** the Word, letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom by singing—Col. 3:16.
- 4. 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. Philippians 2:5-16 reveals the **divine and rich provision for our constant salvation**:

- A. We have the Lord Jesus as our **pattern**—vv. 6-11.
- B. We have God **operating** in us—v. 13.
- C. We are God's **children**, having God's life and the divine nature—v. 15.
- D. We are **luminaries** qualified to reflect the divine light of Christ—v. 15.
- E. We have the **word of life** to hold forth, to present, to others—v. 16.