

## WORKING OUT YOUR SALVATION LEADS TO LASTING JOY

EXPERIENCING  
**LASTING JOY**  
THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

### PRECEPT

#### PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. (Read the rest of verses 18-30)

### PROMISE

Verse 12 opens with Paul giving a compliment to the Philippians. He says they “*have always obeyed*,” and they have obeyed whether or not Paul was physically present with them. That is the mark of true obedience. He then continues to tell them, “*continue to work out your salvation*.” This does not mean that we have to work hard in order to be saved. It should not be confused with working for salvation in order to earn it or keep it. This letter was written to the Christians, Saints, and the saved people of Philippi. He tells us as people who are saved by grace through our faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, let us work hard on our walk with God. Let us do our part for God who is working in us and through us will help us fulfill His good purpose in us. In the remaining verses, Paul and his disciples give us some practical steps on how we can experience lasting joy.

#### **PAUL: DO EVERYTHING WITHOUT COMPLAINING OR ARGUING.**

In verse 14, Paul tells us to do everything without grumbling or arguing. A lot of times, complaining about people, situations, and circumstances reveals what’s in our hearts. Grumbling can be synonymous to whining against God and His ways. It shifts the focus to ourselves instead of God. Remember, there was a hint of a preeminent disunity in the church in Philippi. Paul was telling them to stop fighting and instead have one mind, one heart, one goal.

#### **TIMOTHY: DON'T LOOK OUT FOR YOUR OWN INTEREST, BUT SHOW GENUINE CONCERN FOR OTHERS.**

Timothy, the faithful disciple of Paul and part of his mission team, saw how Paul showed care and love everywhere he went, that is why he also does the same. Timothy had proved himself to be trustworthy. Paul reminded us in verse 21, “*For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ*.” Let us remember to humbly and lovingly serve the people around us, to help God’s people out of love and not for money or recognition.

#### **BE PART OF GOD’S FAMILY, SERVE IN THE MINISTRY, AND FIGHT THE BATTLES OF LIFE.**

Ephaphroditus was evidently a member of the Philippian church who had come from them as a messenger to Paul in order to minister to him in prison. Ephaphroditus reminds us to serve in God’s kingdom, wherever our gifts can be best used. There is a need for every type of gifting in building God’s church, and every believer’s role is important. Sharing the story of Jesus requires selflessness, sacrifice, and teamwork. Everyone plays a crucial role. Even the apostle Paul had to have teammates to carry out the work God gave him to do. In this passages, he names Timothy and Ephaphroditus but he also invokes the entire church in Philippi into service. Everyone has a crucial role, and no matter what situation, age, or circumstance, everyone is called either to go, to pray, or to send. Let us be part of His family and serve in His ministry.

### PRACTICE

**1. Salvation.** What does it mean to work out your salvation? Why with fear and trembling?

**2. Lasting Joy.** How can you work out your salvation to experience lasting joy? How does this look like in your everyday life?

### PRAYER

#### **I. World**

- Let’s lift up our world to Christ, asking for His peace, healing, unity, and guidance.

#### **II. Unity**

- Help us to work together, supporting one another as we seek to do God’s will.

#### **III. Provision**

- Let’s come to God with grateful hearts, trusting in His abundant provision.

#### **IV. Family**

- Thank God for our family, for each member, and for the love that binds us together.

#### **V. Growth**

- May we seek God earnestly, learn from His Word, and bear fruit that honours Him.

#### **VI. Gospel**

- May God’s message of redemption and love spread around the world.

#### **VII. Mental Health**

- Let’s ask for God’s healing touch upon those who are struggling.