

## **WORK OUT WHAT HAS BEEN WORKED IN**

### **Philippians 2:12-13**

**Introduction:** Becoming a Christian and continuing from there to live as a Christian should is not automatic. God, the Father, the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit were involved in one becoming a Christian in the first place, the Christian had "but" to believe and place his/her entire trust, existence in Jesus. He/she was then indwelt with the Holy Spirit and all that would be needed to live as he/she should as a Christian, however, he/she has to learn how to use what the Holy Spirit has given, placed within him/her. So, just how does a Christian work out that which has been worked in?

#### **I. JUST WHAT IS TO BE WORKED OUT?**

1. First of all where it is to be worked out is within ONE'S OWN SELF.
  - Begin at home, learn about yourself.
  - One cannot "plough another person's field and allow his/her own to ruin."
  - Jesus spoke about someone seeing a "speck" in someone's eye yet had a "mote" in his/her own.
  - Being saved, salvation, doesn't mean it is "sit down" time.
2. "Work out" means something has been put in, worked in, but God.
  - Nobody but Christians have it, the lost don't.
  - Some profess to "have faith" but are they "working out" what has been worked in?
    - Do they have the Holy Spirit? If so let Him be seen in their lives.
    - If they are indeed Christians, then they should act like the Lord Jesus.
3. "Own salvation" is not dealing with one's guilt for the cross settled that.
  - It is the power of sin - pride, temper, gossip, etc.
  - It is becoming free from that which holds one back from living as God wants.
  - It is like a sculptor seeing a statue concealed within a block of marble and chipping away until the statue, the image is free.
  - Christians are to "chip away" at that which holds him/her captive until he/she is free from it.

#### **II. CHRISTIANS HAVE A MODEL TO WORK TOWARD BEING LIKE**

1. Artists and sculptors have an idea, an image, a picture in mind before they ever start their work.
2. The Christian's image is God's idea for all believers to be of one mind, one accord, of the same love, the same truth, the same faith, the same views, all of ONE "RACE."
  - Friction, arguments, hurt feelings, church splits, etc. happen because some are not of "one accord" or have the same "model" - that being the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. An old story is told about a wolf and a pack of dogs. The wolf was fearful of so many dogs for they hated him as much as he feared them. The wolf sneaked up one night where the dogs were and saw that they were fighting among themselves and after seeing them fighting among themselves so fiercely, he was no longer afraid of the many dogs. Sadly, the same thing happens among Christians when they take their eyes off the Lord Jesus.

4. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory..." carries the thought of doing things in the "name of the Lord" but actually done in/for self glorification.
  - There is competition in Sunday School classes - why?
  - There is competition among pastors/preachers - why?
  - There is competition among churches as to which has the most beautiful, expensive building - why?
  - How much "Church activity" is done in vainglory?
  - How much "vainglory" is done by members?
    - How do I look in this dress? How does my hair look?
    - Pastors' "practicing" their sermons before preaching them.
    - Magnifying one's own works and putting down the works of others.
      - "I'm not bragging, but....."
  - Anything done for any cause other than for uplifting the Kingdom of God and for the Lord Jesus Christ is but vainglory.
  - Christians are to be of one mind and one accord.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. When we can admire that which others have which we have not attained yet and not pull them down, we are approaching where God wants us to be.
2. When we can actually desire to see our fellow Christians reaching planes/levels we may never reach and feel no jealousy, we are getting near.
3. Our model, our example is the Lord Jesus Christ. He said in order to be great, one had to be small, to be somebody, one had to serve.
4. When we are willing to give up our reputations, property, jobs, honor, everything and then feel NO ill toward anyone, we are getting close to "working out our own salvation..."