

A Salvation That Works!

Philippians 2:12-16

Introduction:

- We are living in the age of technology. Stairs – escalators; computers- smartphones; soon automated cars, etc. In this time we have become so dependent on technology (cars, computers, etc.). If they ever stopped working we'd be in trouble! Is there anything worse than an expensive piece of technology that doesn't even work!
- Well, spiritually speaking- consider our salvation. It was given to us by God in response to our faith. With this salvation- we must put it to work! Why didn't God just take us to Heaven once we were saved?
- Our salvation is not some relic stored in a museum behind glass- it should put to use each and everyday!

I. ARE WE SAVED BY WORKS?

- a. No! This would contradict countless other scriptures that teach salvation is by grace- Eph 2:8-9, Titus 3:5
- b. Romans 6:23- what we have earned is Hell, but salvation is God's gift to us!
- c. We are saved by the work which has already been done- while on the cross Jesus cried- It is finished!

II. WE OUGHT TO HAVE A SALVATION THAT WORKS

- a. A car, elevator, escalator is not worth much if it doesn't work!
- b. We cannot work out salvation until it has first been worked in
- c. The next verse tells us that God works out that which He has worked in
- d. God has saved you according to his grace, through faith
- e. But after we are saved He talks to us about our works. The salvation that he worked in by faith is a salvation He will work out also
- f. Calvin- "Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone."
- g. James 2:17-18- God knows our heart. But our neighbors can't see our faith, but he can see the works of faith.
- h. We do not work for our salvation, but we work because of our salvation
- i. We are not saved by good works, but we are saved unto good works! Eph. 2:8-10

- j. So, the question this morning is since you've been saved, since Christ has come into your life- what have you been doing for Him?
 - i. We cannot earn, or pay back our salvation
 - ii. This is a matter of gratitude- Romans 12:1
 - iii. God asks you to be faithful to His church, have you been doing that? God asks you to spend time in the word, witness to the lost, stay away from sin, stay close to Him- have you been doing that??
 - iv. Bosses drive you to give your all, teachers require you to do your best-but for many Christians God is left with small leftovers, or nothing at all
- k. Notice this is a personal quest- "your own salvation" (don't worry about siblings, parents, friends, etc.)
 - i. Your own salvation: This tells us to give attention to our own salvation. Sometimes we show great concern for the work of God in others, and not enough for His work in us. "I sure hope "so-and-so" is listening to this message!
 - ii. You will not stand before your parents, or your preacher, or your friends- but before God
 - iii. You will stand before God alone
 - iv. The basics: devotions, church attendance, witnessing**
 - v. Specific burdens and callings on your life**
 - vi. Channels of God's blessings**
- l. Fear and trembling- It may instead be the righteous and awe-filled reverence of God every believer should have.
- m. V. 15- Note the stage/backdrop for which we are to work out our salvation- in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation- it is possible to live for God in this world!
- n. V. 15- To be blameless means that no charge can be sustained, no charges will stick, against a person (Daniel 6:4)
- o. A blameless person is not a sinless person- one who is careful to get clean and get right with the Lord
- p. V. 15- Be like the stars. When things get dark, we should shine as lights in the world! The darker the night, the brighter the light appears!
- q. V. 16- The great motivator: The Day of Christ-Christ's return and judgment of the believers service

III. It is God- v. 13

- a. Everything revolves around God- He is from Everlasting to Everlasting
- b. Eph. 2:10- His workmanship! Illustr- work of art/painting.
- c. God is the one that does the work through you! He has a plan for your life!
- d. Some Christians give up and get discouraged
 - i. "Save you breath, preacher! I've already tried that and failed!"
 - ii. They have been deceived- in their mind, by their experience
 - iii. They tried living for God for a while and stopped because it didn't work. In reality, it worked exactly as God said it would- "For without me you can do nothing." It's not about you, it's about God!
 - iv. It is not that God can't, instead God won't! If you aren't seeking His mercy, and His presence, and His power; if you aren't willing and surrendered why should He work through you?
 - v. Illustr- pearls before swine- Matthew 7:6
- e. V. 12- As you have always obeyed: We should not miss the connection between the obedience Jesus showed (Philippians 2:8) and the obedience Paul expected of Christians as followers of Jesus (Philippians 2:12).
- f. The Christian life is a life of surrender, and when we do God takes over!
- g. Ex.Moses, Samuel, David, 12 Apostles, Paul, etc.
- h. God is more than able! But He won't work with unwilling tools. The key is being yielded!
- i. There are three kinds of workers. For example, when a piano is to be moved, the first kind gets behind and pushes, the second pulls and guides, and the third grabs the piano stool. Some are just unwilling to step up!
- j. God not only can do the work through you, but he even gives the desire!- v. 13
- k. The key to this chapter is biblical humility
 - i. Not just self-critical- biblical humility leads to biblical obedience (i.e. Jesus)
 - ii. "God, I can't but you can!"
- l. God works, but you must work too!
 - i. "Some professors appear to have the notion that the grace of God is a kind of special drug which puts you to sleep and lets God do all the rest. "God works in us," say they, "therefore there is nothing for us to do." Bad reasoning, false

conclusion. God works, says the text; therefore we must work out because God works in!

- ii. You can always tell the people whom God is working on, because they are working!

Conclusion:

- If Jesus could walk down the hallways of your office, your school, through the cafeteria, the locker-rooms, etc- do you think there would be an impact; a difference? The reality is that He can, through you!
- The great violinist, Nicolo Paganini, willed his marvelous violin to Genoa -- the city of his birth -- but only on condition that the instrument never be played upon. It was an unfortunate condition, for it is made of a unique wood that as long as it is used and handled, it shows little wear. As soon as it is discarded, it begins to decay. The exquisite, mellow-toned violin has become worm-eaten in its beautiful case, valueless except as a relic. The moldering instrument is a reminder that a life withdrawn from all service to others loses its meaning.
- The Roman Aqueduct - Unamuno, the Spanish philosopher, tells about the Roman aqueduct at Segovia, in his native Spain. It was built in A.D. 109. For eighteen hundred years, it carried cool water from the mountains to the hot and thirsty city. Nearly sixty generations of men drank from its flow.

Then came another generation, a recent one, who said, "This aqueduct is so great a marvel that it ought to be preserved for our children, as a museum piece. We shall relieve it of its centuries-long labor."

They did; they laid modern iron pipes. They gave the ancient bricks and mortar a reverent rest. And the aqueduct began to fall apart. The sun beating on the dry mortar caused it to crumble. The bricks and stone sagged and threatened to fall. What ages of service could not destroy idleness disintegrated.

Your salvation is more than just some relic- it is to be put to use!