

- A. Opening Greetings (1:1-2)
- B. Thanksgiving & Prayer (1:3-11)
- C. Proclaiming Christ Amidst Opposition (1:12-18)
- D. Magnifying Christ (1:19-26)
- E. Striving & Suffering for Christ (1:27-30)
- F. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:1-11)
- G. Work out Your Salvation (2:12-16)
- F'. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:17-30)
- E'. All things for Christ (3:1-11)
- D'. Pressing toward the Goal in Christ (3:12-16)
- C'. Standing Firm Amidst Opposition (3:17-4:7)
- B'. Exhortation & Thanksgiving (4:8-20)
- A'. Closing Greetings (4:21-23)

Excel Still More

Philippians, Part VIII

Philippians 2:12-16

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Castles of Sand and Stone

II. The Central Thrust

III. Excel Still More

- A. Work out your salvation (Ps 2:11; 1 Cor 4:7)

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

The combination of *fear and trembling* with _____ is characteristic of biblical piety. Consider Psalm 2:11 – *Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.* Our tendency is to veer toward one or the other of these poles.

- Antinomians –
- Legalists –

Biblical faith combines _____ and *fear and trembling* in one. Allen Ross writes, *“Like the Israelites at the foot of the fiery mountain, the devout are drawn to the Lord in adoration and amazement because his power is glorious, but they also shrink back because the power is frightening. This same tension between adoration and fear occur with human responses to other things as well, such as dangerous animals, tornadoes, and natural wonders”* (I:211).

- B. Do all without complaining and disputing (Nu 14:2; 16:5ff; Dt 32:5; 1 Cor 10:10)

IV. Application

A. Holding fast the word of life

We are totally dependent upon the grace and mercy of God for our sanctification. He must work in us – only then can we work those things out. Sanctification is synergistic.

How does God accomplish His work in us? The first answer to this question is easy: He accomplishes His work in us by the power of the _____ (cf. 2 Thes 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2; Jn 6:63). So how does the Spirit accomplish His work? The answer that Paul supplies in our text today is *through the _____ of God*.

The Word of God is the *word of life*. What does this mean?

- *Word about life* –
- *Word that grants life* (Ro 15:4) –

B. Working out what God works in (Pr 20:30; Heb 12:14)

1. Work don't talk (Pr 14:23)
2. Work don't wait (cf. Tit. 2:11-12)
3. Work don't wobble (cf. 1 Cor 9:24-27)
4. Work don't procrastinate (cf. Pr. 12:24; 13:4)
5. Work don't daydream (cf. Pr 12:11; 28:19)
6. Work don't grumble

C. Rejoicing in the day of Christ (cf. Mt 25:14-30; Lk 19:11-27)

Finally, Paul's words remind us why we are to hold fast the Word of life and work out our salvation with fear and trembling. We do these things not only because Christ has made us the light of the world (15) but also because we will all appear before the Lord on the Day of Christ and we want, on that day, to be able to rejoice.

V. Conclusion