

Phil. 2:12-16 & Phil 3:12-21

Working Out What God is Working in You

READ Philippians 2:12-16, Philippians 3:12-21 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Andrew Edmonds [sermon](#).

It can be hard to think through reasons for 'why' and 'how' we should develop as Christians, but the Bible gives us our motivation and direction for our personal spiritual development. As we discover the truth in God's Word we learn that God works in believers from start to completion (Phil. 1:6), but within His work we also have work to do that He is enabling. As believers in the covenant community context we all need to be committed to work out the good work God is willing in us for our personal growth and His good pleasure. Our joy is found in living and working out our faith in Jesus, and through Philippians we can glean clear direction and examples to spur us on in our 'training to be godly' (1 Timothy 4:7).

Main lesson: The church is a new covenant community committed to personal growth.

Questions:

1. In what ways have you seen God 'at work' recently (think your life and the lives of others)? Share with the group.
2. Looking at Eph. 2:12-13 what then does it mean to work out your salvation, who is involved in this 'work'?
3. Why should we 'fear and tremble' (v. 12) as we *work out* what God is working in us? How is this a good thing for us to do?
4. How could complaining and arguing work against the effort of working out your salvation (v.14)? Who would we be complaining to and what about?

5. What's required for believers to *work on* so they 'shine like stars in the universe' (v.15)? Is your personal holiness such that it contrast brightly against the moral backdrop of this world?

6. What encouragement and challenge can you personally take on from Paul's statement about *pressing on* in the call of Christ in Eph. 3:12-14? What is the prize for Paul, and you?

7. Read Eph 3:15-16. What makes up the mature mindset believers are to have? How can we keep each other honest about our own development?

8. Contrast the '*walk*' examples in Eph. 3:17-20. What is the 'direction' and 'destination' of each example? How should our eternal destination and current status as citizens of heaven impact our walking direction?

9. How can we be enabled to do the work and fulfil the instructions that Paul challenges us to strive for and be? What encouragement do you take from Eph. 3:21 in the effort to work out what God is working in you?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: *God who is able to do far more abundantly than we could ask or imagine through His power working within us.*

Confess: *Of times of apathy, complaining and passiveness in working on our own 'Christlikeness'.*

Pray: *for each other to pursue Jesus and train in godliness by working out our salvation for our personal growth and His good pleasure and purpose.*