

chapter 1. Paul encourages the people of Philippi to be of one spirit and one mind. In verse 2:2, Paul adds the idea of being of “one love.” In other words, the context in which Paul wrote work out your salvation is unity. When we understand that context, then we begin to work together in working out our salvation – bringing to completion the work that God has begun in each of us. How does this understanding of unity as the context in which Paul is writing affect your view of the phrase, “work out your salvation?” Meditate on that question and write your reflection here.

Thursday, December 30

Read Philippians 2:5-18. When we understand the Paul’s desire (and God’s desire) for unity as the context for working out our salvation, then we can ask, “What does working out our salvation look like?” It means that none of us is alone in working out our salvation – Christianity is a team sport! It means that we are to seek a unity that is so engrained within each individual and the community as a whole that we actually can’t think of ourselves as whole without being in community. We are to encourage one another, help one another and love one another! Working out our salvation looks like selfless unity. We are to work out our salvation together for our mutual benefit but also as a witness to the world. Meditate on these concepts, ask God for wisdom and write your thoughts here.

Friday, December 31

Read Philippians 2:5-18. If you have time read all of Chapters One and Two. Pastor Jack invited our congregation to make some New Year’s Resolutions in responds to Paul’s letter to the Philippians and the message Pastor Jack shared. What can we do to create a selfless unity that will inspire us to work out our salvation? What plans can you make and face unafraid so that Central Church can be all that God desires and intends for us? Write down some ideas and make your plans today!

Message Notes – December 26, 2021

Working Out in the New Year*

- I. Christmas lyrics are not the only words that we mess up or misquote; _____ often gets misquoted or misinterpreted.
 - A. There is a phrase that you may have wondered about along with me on many occasions: work out your own _____ with fear and trembling.
 1. I’ve heard some people say in a _____ voice, “I guess I just have to work out my own salvation.”
 2. Our salvation, our wholeness is a _____ from God, a transformation that God works within each and every one of us through the Holy Spirit.
 - B. So just what does _____ mean when he writes we are to work out our own salvation?
- II. To answer the question of what Paul meant we need to understand the _____ in which he wrote those words.
 - A. There is an old rule of thumb that says: anytime you see the word “therefore,” you need to look and see what came _____.
 1. We actually have to go all the way back to the _____ of Paul’s letter.
 2. Verse 27 reads, “I will know that you are standing firm in one _____, striving side by side with one _____ for the faith of the gospel.”
 - B. Paul is urging the Philippians to be selflessly _____. If we miss this, then we risk missing the entire point of what Paul is saying.
- III. Let’s consider a couple of phrases in verse 12 and 13; _____ is such a rich language in comparison to English.

*Philippian 2:5-18

- A. The Greek word translated, “work out” means to work in order to bring something to _____.
 - 1. Essentially, Paul was reiterating what he said in Philippians 1:27, “Only let your manner of life be _____ of the gospel of Christ...”
 - 2. Interestingly, the context in all of these passages is Christian _____.
 - B. When Paul writes, “Work out your own salvation” what do the words “_____” mean?
 - 1. A common misuse of this passage is as if Paul was saying this is something _____ person must do on his or her own.
 - 2. This is not something that can be done individually; it can only be done in the context of a faith _____.
 - 3. Christianity is a _____ sport!
- IV. The good news is we are to work _____ on being whole and working toward being of one mind and one love.
- A. The best news of all is that _____ is with us also when we’re seeking one mind and one love.
 - B. We cannot be _____ in this transformation. We must actively imitate the humility of Christ. We must become like Him.
 - 1. In 2022, let’s work together to show the world what salvation looks like – _____ unity. _____ for one another and for the world.
 - 2. I encourage us to make _____ unafraid that will lead us to a greater understanding of God’s grace in our lives and a selfless unity that will _____ the lives of this church and the communities that we serve!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, December 27

The message began with a series of misquotes from familiar Christmas songs. Have you ever sung the words to a song wrong for a long time and then discovered the true lyrics? This is simply an illustration that misunderstanding can happen so easily and in meaningful situations, can damage relationships and lives. It’s a humorous illustration that has serious implications. Think about this idea and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, December 28

Read Philippians 2:5-18. Pastor Jack shared that the phrase, “work out your own salvation” is often misunderstood and misused. The entire sentence in which this quote appears is, “Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13) Have you heard this phrase before? What has been your prior understanding of this phrase? What words within these scripture verses capture your attention? Consider these questions and write your ideas here.

Wednesday, December 29

Read Philippians 2:5-18. Philippians is a short letter from Paul to the people of Philippi and you may want to take the time to read in its entirety. To answer the question of what Paul meant when he wrote “work out your own salvation” we need to understand the context in which he wrote those words. To understand the context of verse 2:12-13, we need to review verse 26 and 27 in