

Key Passage Study

Philippians 2:12, 13

Key Passage

*(Commit passage to memory & write out things you learn from the passage, not taking anything else into account except what is said in the **key passage** itself).*

1. The Philippians are an object of Paul's affection called "beloved" and they had an example of being obedient.
2. They are exhorted to continue to obey in Paul's absence.
3. Salvation is something to be worked out *individually* and *personally*.
4. Salvation is to be worked out with *fear* and *trembling*.
5. God works in us to will and do.
6. God works in us to do what is pleasing to Him when we obey

Context

(Study context, verses before and after that relate to key passage, and write out what you learn from the context that helps you to properly understand the key passage).

1. The context is from 1:27-2:18 and has to do with *conduct*. Paul makes a transition from talking about himself to how they are to walk the Christian walk.
2. Paul pressed that their conduct be worthy of the gospel; if absent that he would hear of their unity and perseverance (v. 27).
3. These Philippians had adversaries which they were not to be terrified of (v. 28). They were falling suit to Paul's example (v. 29). The Christian religion can produce adversaries!
4. Paul stresses unity and self abasement as the source for consolation and comfort (2:1-4). Verses 5-8 is Jesus' example of self abasement which preceded His obedience. Verses 9-11 show how God exalted Him because of His self denial and obedience.
5. "Therefore" v. 12 contexts what Paul taught about Jesus and what these Philippians needed to do. They have Christ's example of unselfish love towards others, self-humiliation and obedience to God (v. 8). His glorified state is an example to persuade them to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling that they might attain a similar result as Jesus.
6. Paul exhorts them to refuse the temptation to complain and argue over things (v. 14) that they might show themselves to be lights. Do grumblers inspire men to be better? Did Christ complain?
7. Paul exhorts them to hold fast the word of life (v. 16). If we lose our grip on the word of life, then we forfeit salvation.
8. Paul's gladness to pour himself out as a drink offering (life's blood) on their sacrifice and service was meant to encourage them to continue in the faith joyfully (vv. 17, 18).

Cross References

(Find and study cross references and write out how they relate to the key passage).

1. Working out salvation (Prov. 10:16; Rom. 2:6-10; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:7-9; 1 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 4:11).
2. Fear and trembling: a state of mind in obeying the Lord. The task is to be approached with respect and awe, having gravity about performing the duty of the Lord (see Is. 66:2). Perhaps a nervous and anxious spirit to do right. It is not an attitude of being scared away to hide (cf. Matt. 25:24-30). Joy can be present in this (Ps. 2:11). The Lord's work should be approached this way because the salvation of the soul is at stake. Is used in 2 Corinthians 7:13-16. The Corinthians' "fear and trembling" is something that impressed Titus when he visited them. They received him as a messenger of God with fear and trembling. They wanted to do right. They were humbled in view of their responsibilities.
3. God working in us (see 1 Thess. 2:13). Both divine and human activity are involved.
4. To will and do for God's pleasure. "Do" is the same word as "work" (same verse) in the original from the Greek, "energeo" which comes from the word that our word, "energy" (in work) comes from. The gospel message is sufficient to change the will (heart) of man and once that happens men will want to know what work they are to do. It is like those in Acts 2. When Peter preached they were cut to the heart or will and ask what they should do (v. 37).

Application

(Write out how the key passage, with an understanding of the context and cross references, applies for us today).

1. Salvation is not just a past event. Salvation is sometimes presented as something that is in possession (1 Jn. 5:13). But it is also something yet to be realized (1 Pet. 1:9).
2. We ought to have fear and trembling, a respect and awe for the commandments of God today, for Bible class and preaching, for doing what the Lord requires of us.
3. "Fear is a great guard and preservative from evil" (Matthew Henry, Vol. 4, p. 734). While we should be interested and support the common salvation of all men, we had better make sure that we do not neglect our own soul. Fear of losing our soul should help to preserve our soul. Thus we should be inspired to "work out" our salvation.
4. Our obedience should be independent upon another's person's presence. It is God who works in us.