

Elder Bill Allen



Meditations on Philipians 2:12b-16a

"...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life;..."

The phrase "work out your own salvation" could be misunderstood in our day to mean "figure out" how one was saved. On the contrary, the phrase, as used in Philipians 2:12, is telling us to work outwardly our salvation and then tells us how we should do so. We are informed that any outward working of our salvation has as its motivation and enabling the inward salvation work of God. As it has been well said that life precedes action, so it is with any outward working, any manifestation, of our salvation in that God is working in us via His Spirit, producing faith and all other wonderful fruit of a life in Christ. And when we come to understand this, it should bring a certain fear and trembling in knowing that our great God has so greatly loved and dealt with us such that we now may show forth His glory in our little lives here, to the praise of His name. What encouragement this should be to walk by faith without complaint, though this world may hate us. We should be manifestly the children of God in our walk here in this sinful world. We should rejoice in telling others what good things the Lord has done for us and in us. And we should tell of the work of Christ on our behalf, how he loved us, died for us, and has risen again to intercede for us before the throne of our Heavenly Father as our one and only mediator. How this same Living Lord Jesus has given us life and all things pertaining unto godliness. In all these outward things we do show, we work out, a tremendous thing, even everlasting life, that was first wrought inwardly in us by God.