

Philippians 2:12–13

“Pursuing Holiness out of Love for Christ’s Glory”

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Philippians chapter 2 our portion this evening is verses 12 and 13, let's pray.

Our father in heaven we praise you who have displayed your glory in your son. And have given him that name that is above every name. So that when we bow our knees and confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ as Lord glorifies you. Oh God our Father. We ask that you would give us now to help of your spirit how grateful we are on to you for this word that your spirit has carried the apostle alone to write so perfectly from you that these words of Scripture are as much yours as if you had breathed them out to us.

And we pray that that same spirit would now help us as we read and speak and hear and hear preach your words that he would set before us the glory of Christ that he would stir up our hearts to love that glory. And that he would spore wills to obey this command to work out our salvation.

In dependence upon and delight in you who are the one who have begun the work who are the one who are working in us and who will surely complete that work onto your own glory in Christ through whom we ask it. Amen, Philippians chapter 2 verses 12 and 13.

These are God's words.

As you have always obeyed not as in my presence only. But now much more absence. Work out your own salvation with fear. And trembling. It is God who works in you? Both to will and to do. For his good pleasure. So far the reading of God's inspired and inerrant word here, the apostle is commanding the Philippians and the spirit is commanding us to pursue that holiness without which none of us will see the Lord to pursue that likeness unto our Lord purifying ourselves as even he is pure because it is our hope that when we see him we will be like him and he will be the firstborn among many brethren.

He is just, finished setting before us in the freezing passage is the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. And if we are going to be those who love his glory, we need to pursue holiness with the right fear with the right fear says that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is lured to the glare of God the Father there's this crescendo of the glory of the Sun and the father being glorified in the glory of the son and he says, therefore my beloved is you pursue holiness.

I don't want you to do it out of the fear of men. Do it. Out of the right fear because the apostle notice that when he comes around everybody straightens up and acts a little bit better when the apostles around. Or sometimes we try to avoid those around him we feel like we have to be better when they're around in our forlornness.

I once stood on the porch of a family that wasn't ready for a family visit even though they knew it was coming and listened to the mom say he's here as they proceeded to not answer the door and in those days because we were poor I had ridden my bike and so I rode my bike home the couple of miles.

Praying for that family, but you children know what it's like to when mom or dad come around the corner and suddenly you behave better than you wear before mmm, or maybe you're just so involved in your wickedness at the time you finish those last couple of words. The apostle doesn't want them to obey like that does he he says therefore my beloved as you have always obeyed not as in my presence only but now much my absence he says if you are going to love Christ's glory instead of loving your own glory, then you are going to when you don't have the extra pressure and it's good pressure.

The apostle being around or of your parents being around which is good pressure the Lord applies to you to love him and obey him and so mom or dad come around you say now when mom or dad aren't around or the apostle here is telling the Philippians now when I'm not around you're going to have to work even hard.

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling because then it is only God who sees and he isn't applying that extra pressure he says therefore since we should love the glory of Jesus and there are those moments whether it's in your secret heart or where only God can see or there's moments in times where even your actions only God can see those are the moments where the only thing that's going to happen by you being holy as well, it's good for you but only Jesus is going to be glorified in that.

Moment because you're not going to get any glory of that the apostles are going to say look how you're already is doing today and praise God for the for what I just saw sin to keep you the only one is going to get praise when you're by yourself when you're not seen.

Is the Lord Jesus. And so he wants us to pursue holiness out of the right fear a love for his glory knowing that our savior is glorified by his salvation being worked out in us not just a right fear but a great fear a great fear now much more of my absence work out your own salvation your own salvation with fear.

And trembling. Why? Because as you pursue holiness you are participating in a work that is so great that as we just finished hearing last week in verses 9 through 11 in the Apostle is referring back to Isaiah 45 verses 21 through 25 and in that passage the Lord said that he allowed us

God, there is no other.

He alone is savior, there is no other and then he sends his son and says, my son is savior. What's he saying says, my son is the alone God my, Son has that name that is about every every name my son is your way in the flesh. And so Jesus is being shown to be the creator who became a man to die for us and save us by your growing and holiness and my growing and holiness.

What we do with him what we do in partnership with him independence upon him, we'll see in a moment in verse 13 is glorious is in the neutered sense of the word because it's overused so overused awesome. Is in the old sense of the word that many wouldn't understand terrible.

We are to tremble at the greatness of what is happening as you and I grow in holiness. So fear is three. There's a lot she thinks she can do. There's a lot that we think she can't do and there's a lot that she can do that we don't know that she can because she's just getting smarter and and more capable faster than we can keep track.

One thing that she has recently begun to do for me is when she sees me come in with my empty team mug and she sees me go into the cabinet for some of those individually wrapped teabags that we have in there because she says, And she comes running and she takes she takes those tea bags and then, I know that I've got a minute or two I can go use the restroom or you know, whatever else it is.

I need to do because she has mastered opening those tea bags just rightly and taking them out and putting them in the mug and draping the the the string over the side and placing the mug very carefully onto the hot water cooler right under the hot water spigot and praise God, she is not trying to do the hot water part because that could you know, she could hurt herself damage herself with that, but I go and I come back and there's my there's my team mug perfectly placed with a bags perfectly in it and she takes that so seriously.

Then the mother person in this room who takes putting tea bags into a lug and seriously Sophia Hakeem why? Because it's something that she can do with her daddy that makes a difference. The living God glorifies his son in the sanctification of those whom he is redeeming and every single one of you has one person sanctification that you are more involved with than anybody else's.

Your own. Work out your own salvation as someone who has been given to do something in partnership with the living God who has been assigned the sanctification of one particular individual in which Jesus Christ is going to be glorified as young flesh. So that as you learn to put to death that rising heat of anger that comes from your flesh with that fruit of the spirit of patience and gentleness and self-control as you learn to speak those words always edifying words no idle words, no harmful words as your tongue is sanctified by God the Holy Spirit the labor that you put into that and all the times which something comes out and you just you wish it was a thing right to you know, like when you send an email, And do well you can't do the words and as you wrestle with that but you realize you are involved in this glorious awesome terrible the right sense of the word activity of the sanctification of one of God's saints and so pursue holiness with the right fear and presume not just with fear about fear and trending pursue harness with great fear.

But pursue it with great confidence. Don't tremble how badly you feel it is going it's not going to go that badly forever tremble how weak you still are because the one with whom you are working which is the reason that you're trembling to begin with he's not weak he's infinitely strong and so as you pursue holiness don't just do it with the right fear of love for Christ's glory and not your own fearing God instead of man, not just with a great fear and trembling but with a great confidence for it.

As God who works in you isn't that the application that the that the apostle made about the Philippians in the first chapter when he was thinking about them and he's thanking God for them says being confident of this very thing that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion, so there's that that past point and then there's that future certain point.

But all of your pursuing holiness are midpoints, aren't they along the same process? God is working in you. He said I don't even want to be like he works in you too will the thing that I do want to do is.

He works in you to do. He works in you to will. He works in you to do it pleases him not just the stuff that he's making you will and the stuff that he's making you do please is him. It pleases him to work in you to carry you along.

And so you can you can pursue holiness not just out of the right fear of love for his glory, not just out of great fear amazement at who is that you're working with but with great confidence because of who it is who is working in you. The pursuit of holiness is a marvelous thing for a Christian.

We live in an age in which in which many of the churches they actually teach and think that pursuing holiness vigorously is somehow opposed to the gospel. Nothing could be further from the truth. Because if you love Christ's glory and if you love to do that which brings in glory and if you have confidence that he is the one doing it then you will pursue holiness with the right fear with great fear and with great confidence.

Let's pray. How we thank you Lord for this portion of your word how we thank you for the reality that you set before us in these two verses help us to see Jesus as we pursue holiness so that we will love the glory that he gets from that pursuit so that we will be amazed at the greatness of what's happening as we pursue the holiness and so that we will be dependent upon him and confident in him as you work in us by your spirit applying your son to us unto his glory and your glory in him whose name in his name we ask it.

Amen.