

Philippians 2:12-13

- 1) Paul commends them for their faithful obedience—2:12a ¹² *So then* (because of Jesus' character and example), *my beloved, just as you^{pl} have always obeyed* [*hupakouo*] (God),
 - a) *not in my presence* [*parousia*] *only but now even more in my absence* [*apousia*],
 - i) Obedience when no authorities are visible is an excellent evidence of a heart that desires to truly submit to authority out of joy. (Harmon)
 - b) Biblical faith produces obedience over the long term in the life of the Christian just as the light of the sun produces heat. (Harmon)

- 2) What is their human responsibility in their sanctification? *work out/develop* [*katergazomai*] *your^{pl} salvation*
 - a) The word was used to describe the results of fieldwork done by a farmer.
 - b) Individual members of a congregation are personally responsible for the daily outworking of their salvation. No one drifts into godliness.
 - c) What attitude is necessary for this development to take place?
 - i) *with* (internal) *awe* [*phobos*] *and* (external) *trembling* [*tromos*];
 - (1) OT (LXX)—Exodus 15:16; Psalm 2:11; 55:6; Isaiah 19:16
 - (2) NT—1st Corinthians 2:3; 2nd Corinthians 7:15; Ephesians 6:5
 - d) Christians must practice the same discipline that Christ exercised when He obeyed His Father. (Jeremiah) Cf. Jesus' example in 2:8

- 3) What is God's responsibility in their sanctification? ¹³ *because ...*
 - a) Emphasis on the Great Energizer—*it is God* (emphatic) *who is working* [pres. act. ptc. of *energeo*]
 - Lit. "*because the One causing both the desiring and the active working in you^{pl} is God for His good pleasure.*"
 - i) God does not work because man works. Rather, man can and must work because God has worked and is working. (Hellerman)
 - ii) Our actions as Christians are not part-God and part-us; rather, we can act because God is acting in us. (Zondervan Study Bible)
 - b) Where is God working? *in you^{pl}*
 - i) Not emphasizing His work in the individual but rather in the congregation (note the plural).
 - c) What is God doing? *both ...*
 - i) Internally—*to be desiring* [*thelo*]
 - (1) This involves our affections, our thoughts/plans, and our wills
 - ii) Externally—*and to be actively working* [*energeo*]
 - d) Why is God doing this? *for His good pleasure.*
 - i) God delights to enable what He commands because the joyful obedience of His people reflects His own glory. (Harmon)

“This Christlikeness happens in our whole person as we are changed from our inner person in thoughts, feelings, desires, and consciences as these flow out to the outer person in our physical behaviors. Biblical sanctification, which reflects Christlikeness, is not about mere behavior change, but about a completely new person changing from the inside out (Col. 3:1-4:1).” (Lambert)