
HOLINESS AND TRUSTING GOD: BUT NOW MUCH MORE!

Tuesday, April 28th 2020

Philippians 2:12-13

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

Paul praises the Philippians church here for how obedient they are to God and wants to motivate them despite his absence to grow even more so they can live a holy life; a life that clearly shows they have been saved and made new through Christ’s gospel. We should “work out our salvation with fear and trembling.” At first this can sound pressuring and even strange, as if Paul would be encouraging us to take matters into our own hands, completing the last step of our salvation. But he also clarifies that even while we are the ones striving for holiness, **it is God** who gives us the will and the ability to live according to His will. This should lead us both to renewed motivation and a deeper trust in Him!

Right now, we are also in a time where we cannot enjoy physical fellowship, where we can encourage and admonish one another to live all out for God. When we are alone it is often more difficult for us to fight against sin for a holy life. But here is where we can receive personal encouragement from Paul and be challenged by his words: **but now much more** we should humble ourselves before God with deep respect and fear, so that we can strive with all our might to work out our salvation!

It does not matter which sins we are currently fighting in our lives, let’s remind ourselves that **now much more** God is with us in our lives! **He is the one** who renews our heart and motivates us to live a holy life, so that we can give it everything we got to please Him!

Prayer: *Thank you, Father, that we may take part in Your holiness. Jesus, through Your death on the cross we have been forgiven our debt. God, to live for You is so much better than to live for sin. You, God, are better than every temptation we face. You are the one who out of Your grace gives us joy in You, which is greater than any fleeting joy sin gives us! Let us live for You even more so right now in all trust and joy! Amen.*

-Finn Langenbach-

