



PHILIPPIANS

To Live Is Christ

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Thank You to: Father

10/10/2012

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May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

WELCOME TO THE RAUGH FAMILY HOMEPAGE

The Raugh Family, 2012

PHILIPPIANS CLASS

Candle Rock Church of Christ — 8 Sessions

Click on each below to open the class notes as a PDF. Each file can be viewed in your Internet or saved to your computer.

SESSION	FILE	OPEN
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Philippians
Phil 2:12-4:23

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Overview

Review Up To Phil 2:12

Work Out Your Salvation (Phil 2:12-13)

Citizens Like Stars (Phil 2:14-18)

Examples to Imitate (Phil 2:19-3:21)

Conflict Between Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:2-3)

Closing Encouragement (Phil 4:4-7)

The Solution to Anxiety (Phil 4:8-9)

The Thankless Thanks (Phil 4:10-12)

*I Can Do All this Through Him Who Gives Me
Strength (Phil 4:13)*

Your Savings Account With God (Phil 4:14-17)

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Review Up To Phil 2:12

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Work Out Your Salvation (Phil 2:12-13)

¹² 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, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

- a. As my Christian journey began, I vividly remember listening to sermons that used these verses and being really confused and scared.

- b. It was unsettling to say the least.
- c. How could Paul say that?
- d. The idea that I was responsible for “working out my salvation with fear and trembling” was terrifying and completely contrary to Paul’s usual message of Grace.
- k. Was Paul really telling the Philippians to work out their salvation?
- l. The Arlington Church of Christ in Virginia where I grew up was a collection of grace-filled Christians, so I was very fortunate to NOT be raised in an environment of heavy legalism that some in the Church of Christ experienced in the 60s and 70s.
- m. When I studied at Abilene Christian and Harding School of Theology, I received even more education about Grace from my professors.
- e. My graduate guided research paper (128 pages!!) was on **Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**
- f. So which is it Paul? Are we **saved by grace through faith** or is it up to us to **“work out our salvation with fear and trembling.”**

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So What’s the Context of Our Passage in Philippians 2:12-13?

A. Picking Up Where He Left Off

1. Paul began this section of the letter all the way back in Chapter 1 verse 27 where Paul urges the Philippians to be worthy citizens in the Kingdom of God.
2. Verse 27 has a verb that is the first command in the entire letter, so that is significant.
3. Remember what that verb is? Live as citizens Of what? Live as citizens of God's heavenly kingdom.
 - i. This word is significant because it is only time Paul uses it in the New Testament.
 - ii. Paul's normal practice is to use six other verbs in his letters when talking about behavior and lifestyle issues.
 - iii. Here in Philippians 1:27, Paul deviates from his normal practice and chooses this verb meaning "live as citizens".
 - iv. The Apostle must have used this unique word to emphasize how much our behavior reflects on the Gospel of Christ.
4. The Philippian Christians were under the microscope and so are we.
5. Regrettably only six out of 56 English translations render this verse so its actual meaning is clear.
6. The New Living Translation is one of the translations that gets it right – "you must live as citizens of heaven".
- 7. Ephesians 2:4-7 ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it**

is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8. We are citizens of heaven right here right now, so it is critical for the Gospel of Christ that we act like it.
9. That old song we sing so often conveys the attitude Christians should have as we live this life.

This world is not my home
I'm just a-passing through

My treasures are laid up
Somewhere beyond the blue

The angels beckon me
From heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home
In this world anymore

Oh Lord, you know
I have no friend like you
If heaven's not my home
Then Lord, what will I do?

The angels beckon me
From heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home

In this world anymore

I have a loving son named Tim
Just up in Gloryland
And I don't expect to stop
Until I shake his hand

10. Remember that Chapter 1 verse 27 is one of those cases where Paul uses the language to say, “OK, listen up people, this is important.”
11. And the following verses all the way thru Chapter 2 verse 18 harken back to this verb in Chapter 1 verse 27.
12. Everything from 1:27 to 2:18 shows us what heavenly citizenship looks like played in this life time.
13. These are the behaviors of saved people.

B. Living Like Saved People

1. So, as we scan verses 1:27 to 2:18, what has Paul been talking about in all these verses?
2. He’s been discussing the behaviors of saved people...how saved people should treat each other within the Body of Christ and the community at large.
3. The context is clear.

Transition: Let me say something about Bible translation.

II. Accurate Translation is Critically Important

- A. The majority of English translators for the Greek word in the original text had to choose about 11 different options

	in the original language. B. In the various lexicons of New Testament Greek, there are multiple options for how this word was used in different situations. C. Most English translators chose “work out” for the meaning of this one Greek word in Philippians 2:12. D. In my mind, there is absolutely no reason to translate the word “work out” when there are other less loaded options such as “devote oneself to”. E. So I think “Devote yourself to living like saved people with fear and trembling” may be a better way of translating this phrase in Chapter 2 verse 12.
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