

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-30

Singing: 259:1, 4, 6 – 313:1-5 – 397:1, 3, 4, 7 – 175:1, 3

Let us Study Philippians (18)

Intro: Phil. 2:5-9: *God's portrait of the chiefest of all men.*

God's Portrait of the Christian

I. Saved II. Indwelt III. Belonging IV. Shining

I. A Christian is man who is saved

A. If one is to 'work out your own salvation' that means he possesses salvation

1. This is a truth we are to relish amidst all we find incomplete (1:6)

2. The Spirit's testimony on this point is abundant: Eph. 2:1-8; Romans 8

B. Make it a prayer point to *learn to think about yourself as He speaks about you*

II. A Christian is a man who is indwelt by God

A. As Christians, we are not a special sort of people able to do the impossible

1. Christians are in some ways still like everyone else (Rom. 7:14-24)

2. But a Christian is a person with *a special indwelling Being*: (vs. 13)

a. compare Col. 1:27; Romans 8:10-11; John 14:16-17, 23

B. God does not dwell within as a **Divine Guest** but as a **Divine Worker**

1. God is at work within each of His saints (1:6)

2. Word study of 'working' shows His work is *not in vain*

a. compare Eph. 1:11 - Eph. 1:20 - Col. 1:29 - Phi. 3:21

C. God's work has a specific object: *works both to will and to do* in you!

D. God's work within has Divine cause: *His good pleasure*

III. Belonging to God's family

A. A Christian is privileged to be a son/daughter of God (vs. 15; 2 Cor. 6:18)

B. We are to savour every aspect of this Divine truth daily in reflection.

1. He is a Father that pities and remembers (Ps. 103)

2. He is a Father Who will never forsake us (Heb. 13:5-6; Is. 49:14-15)

IV. Shining as lights in the world

A. A Christian not only possesses *inward (hidden) glories*

B. A Christian also has a *public glory: they shine as lights in the world* (vs. 15)

1. God's gracious and saving indwelling CANNOT be hidden (Matt. 5:16)

2. What if this 'light' is missing?

Closing Reflections

A. Thanksgiving is giving thanks to God with our voices: Hebrews 13:15

B. Thanksgiving is also to use our voice in another way: Phil. 2:16a