

The Christian's Response and Responsibility

“God’s *therefore* (v9) is matched by the Christian’s *therefore* (v12) and that, in a nutshell, is what this passage is about. Just as God assessed and then reacted to the worth of his Son’s life of obedience, so the Christian must ponder the example of Christ and determine upon a worthy response.” (Alec Motyer, 1984)

vv 12-16

Work Out Your Own Salvation

1. **Obey:** *To hear... the divine word as proclaimed, and submitting to what is heard.*
2. **Work:** *Participating in the only part of Salvation that we can, sanctification.*
 - a. 1 Cor 3:9 & Titus 3:8
 - b. **“to will & to work”** - where our heart begins to desire His good pleasure.
 - c. **Blameless and without blemish**
3. **Shine:** *As a city set upon a hill – to convince the world there is peace at the cross. The church is a city within the broken, bleeding cities of the world. Where hope, power, love, and joy can be found. The church is where redemption is found and reconciliation, where people are transformed spiritually, really changed, and push back on the brokenness around us, drawing out the good, and pointing all glory to Christ as we share His Gospel.*

Where we have helped each other fan into flame the gifts of God within each of us – and where each flame joins its heat and light to another until the church is a set ablaze – Becoming the bright City on a Hill - giving light, warmth, and hope to all around her.

v 16-18

The Example of Paul's Response

Paul raises up disciples, calling forth faith in their hearts and then lays his life down in service to igniting even greater faith and love for Jesus and His mission. His life is like the very drink offering poured on the temple sacrifice (Num. 15:1-10, Num. 28:4-7).

Paul could rejoice in the totality of his service to God and the Philippians in stewarding their offering of faith. The Philippians could rejoice that they, too, had offered themselves as acceptable sacrifices to God (Romans 12:1).

vv 19-24

The Example of Timothy's Response

In Paul's fellowship, no one put the concerns of Christ and Christ's church above any other like Timothy. His genuine concern for the welfare of the Philippian church would govern the quality with which he bears back testimony of the church's witness to Paul. This is a rare quality in any era.

Timothy had a proven record of: speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. (1 Cor. 16:10, 1 Tim 4:12)

vv 25-30

The Example of Epaphroditus' Response

5 Relationships to Paul: *brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, messenger to the Philippians, and minister to Paul's need.*

To be honored because he nearly died for the work of Christ.

Philippians 2:6-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

Lights in the World

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²²But you know

Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

