

## PHILIPPIANS 5

1. Does “work out your salvation” mean that we must work to be saved?

-No.

-There is nothing we can do to be saved.

-Only Christ can save us.

2. What does it mean to “work out your salvation”?

-It means to understand all that God has done to save us so that we would allow Him to continue working in us.

3. What is our work?

-Our work is to deny our flesh, and to allow God to finish His work in our lives.

4. What is God’s work in us Christians?

-God works in us that we might hate sin.

-God works in us that we might desire His righteousness.

-God works in us that we might become like Christ.

5. Why do Christians complain?

-Because we allow our flesh to take control.

-Because we do not fully understand all that God has done for us.

6. When we Christians complain, who are we complaining against?

-God.

Let’s read Philippians 3:1-2

1-Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

2-Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.

-Why do we rejoice in the Lord?

-Because we know that our Father will win over sin and death and Satan.

-Our God is eternally more powerful than sin, death, and Satan, and He has already won the war for us.

-Can any difficulty that a true Christian has on earth ever take away our eternity with God in heaven?

-No.

-Who are the “dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh”?

-These are people who teach that people must be circumcised in order to be saved.

-These are people who teach that we must do something in order to be saved.

-These are people who teach that the death of Christ on the cross is not enough to save us.

Let’s read Philippians 3:3-4a

3-For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

4-though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

-How are Christians the “circumcision”?

-Because the Lord Jesus has cut out our old, sinful heart and given us a new heart.

-It is a spiritual circumcision and the Lord Jesus has changed us and given us eternal life.

-Why does a Christian put no confidence in the flesh?

-Because our flesh and the work of our flesh cannot save us.

-A true Christian will put no confidence in his flesh, but boast alone in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why would Paul think that he has a reason to put confidence in the flesh?

Let's read Philippians 3:4b-6

4-If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5-circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;

6-as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, flawless.

-Before Paul met Christ, he did everything to show the world that his flesh was wonderful.

-Paul was born into the tribe of Israel and circumcised according to the law of Moses.

-He was also a Pharisee, and thought that he had obeyed all of God's laws.

-Paul even persecuted Christians, putting them in jail.

-Before Paul met Christ, he thought that he was without fault, and that he had kept all of the law of Moses.

-After Paul met Christ, what was changed about his thinking?

Let's read Philippians 3:7-8a

7-But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

8-What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

-After Paul met Christ, he understood that all that he had worked for was a loss compared to knowing Christ.

Let's read Philippians 3:8b-9

8-I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

9-and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

-After Paul met Christ, he considered all his previous work as garbage.

-Can we have a righteousness of our own that comes from the law?

-No.

-Why is it not possible to have a righteousness of our own that comes from the law?

-No one can have a righteousness from the law because we have all broken the law.

-All people are born into sin, and sin is more powerful than people.

-Only God is more powerful than sin.

-There is no righteousness on our own, for we are all born into sin.

-There is no righteousness from the law, for no one can completely obey the laws of God.

-Our righteousness can only come from God, as God alone is righteous.

-The righteousness of God is given to us simply when we believe in Christ.

Let's read Philippians 3:10-11

10-I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11-and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

-What did Paul mean when he said that he wanted to know Christ?

-Although Paul already knew the Lord Jesus, he wanted to know Him as much as he could.

-There is no power in the flesh to obey God's laws.

-There is no power in the flesh to overcome sin.

-There is only power in Christ.

-To know Christ is to understand that it is only His power that saves us and makes us like Him.

-To know Christ is to understand that as He suffered for us and with us, and as we suffer on earth, we will be resurrected with Him as well.

Let's read Philippians 3:12

12-Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

-Can Christians become perfect on earth?

-No.

-Because we cannot become perfect on earth, should we stop trying to allow our God to perfect us?

-No.

-Just like only those who know that they have sinned and deserve death will cry out to be saved, only those who know that they are not yet perfect will cry out to God to become more like Him.

-Our God is using every day in our lives to perfect us, and when we reach heaven, we will finally be perfect.

-As Paul pressed on, we should also press on.

Let's read Philippians 3:13-14

13-Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

14-I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

-Paul could have worried about his past and his sins of persecuting Christians, but he did not.

-As Christians, from time to time, we may remember our sins of the past.

-What is the "beauty" of remembering our past sins?

-We remember what God has saved us from, and we thank God for saving us.

-Instead of worrying about our past sins, however, we must push forward to serve Christ with all of our heart.

-In spite of our sins of the past, we must push forward to reach our home in heaven.

-Here is an example:

-A man is on a long walk and it is becoming night, yet he must push forward so that he can reach home before night.

-What is God's goal in the life of every Christian?

-To make us like Christ.

-Therefore, it should also be our goal, and we must allow God to make us like Christ.

-At the end of our life, what will be our prize?

-That we will be perfect without sin.