

Phillipians 2: 12, 13 Discussion Questions

1. The Bible contains Christian *indicatives* (that is, declarations and descriptions of the reality of what it means to be a Christian); and it also contains Christian *imperatives* (that is, declarations of specific duties and commands that should be carried out). Identify the indicative and the imperative in Phillipians 2:12, 13.
2. The imperative indicates that Christians are to be “worker-outers” of their salvation. In what sense or with reference to what part of our salvation are we to “work it out”? In what sense or with reference to what part of our salvation can we not “work it out”?
3. What clues does v. 12 give to explain how the Christian is to work out his/her salvation?
4. From 1:27 through 2:14 Paul issues a number of commands. In obeying these, a Christian could work out his/her salvation. Identify the commands.
5. The indicative indicates that God is at work in every believer willing and working—strengthening and enabling, helping and making adequate-- for His good pleasure. Can you identify other Scriptures that indicate the same truth?
6. In Romans 6:11-13, the passage that has been the subject of Pastor’s recent preaching, we find similar indicatives to consider and imperatives to act on that have to do with the working out of our salvation as God works in us. Identify the indicative and the imperatives.
7. We are to work out our salvation with “fear and trembling”. In what sense ought a Christian “fear and tremble” in working out his/her salvation? In what sense need a Christian not “fear or tremble” in working out salvation?
8. When Christians embrace one Bible truth while neglecting another they end up with faulty theology and poor practice. What faulty theology do we get when we embrace the imperative to *work out our salvation*, but neglect the truth that *God is at work in us*? What faulty theology can result from embracing the truth *that God is at work in us*, while neglecting the truth that *we are to work out our salvation*?