

#3 Experiencing Christ as Our Constant Salvation

(The Memorial Conference) 2019/7/15-21

I. The salvation in Philippians 2:12 is not eternal salvation from God's condemnation and from the lake of fire but the daily and constant salvation that is Christ as a living person: Phil. 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out you own salvation with fear and trembling; **A.** This practical, daily, moment-by-moment salvation results from taking the very Christ whom we live, experience, and enjoy as our inward as well as outward pattern: **1.** The main elements of this salvation are Christ as the crucified life and Christ in His exaltation. Phil. 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped, But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men; **2.** When this pattern becomes our inward life, the pattern becomes our salvation. **3.** To work out our salvation is to work out this pattern and to become in experience a reprint of this pattern. **B.** The constant salvation in Philippians 1:19 is one in which a particular believer is saved from a specific encounter in a particular situation, whereas the constant salvation in 2:12 is one in which any believer is saved from ordinary things in common situations in his daily living.

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II. To work out our own salvation is to carry it out, to bring it to the ultimate conclusion: Phil. 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out you own salvation with fear and trembling; **A.** We have received God's salvation, which has as its climax our being exalted by God in glory as the Lord Jesus was. **B.** Now we need to carry out this salvation, to bring it to its ultimate conclusion, by our constant and absolute obedience with the inward motive of fear and the outward attitude of trembling.

C. The inner operating God Himself is our salvation, and obedience to Him is the working out of our salvation.

III. The reason we need to obey always is that God operates in us: Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure. **A.** It is not that we by ourselves carry out our salvation but that God operates in us to do it; the only thing we need to do is to obey the inner operating, energizing God. **B.** The God who operates in us as our subjective salvation is the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—the very God who is Christ in us and the Spirit in us.

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IV. God operates in us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure: Phil. 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure. **A.** The willing is within; the working is without. **B.** The willing takes place in our will, indicating that God's operation begins from our spirit and spreads into our mind, emotion, will and eventually into our physical body. **C.** The good pleasure of God's will is to operate in us so that we may reach the climax of His supreme salvation. Eph. 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

V. Murmurings and reasonings frustrate us from carrying out our salvation to the fullest extent and from experiencing and enjoying Christ to the uttermost: Phil. 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and reasonings

A. Murmurings are of our emotion and come mainly from the sisters; reasonings are of our mind and come mainly from the brothers. **B.** Murmurings and reasonings are due to disobedience to God; obedience to God slays all murmurings and reasonings. **Wed**

C. We should do all things without murmurings and reasonings in order that we may become blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish:

1. *Blameless* describes our outward behavior, and guileless our inward character; to be *guileless* is to be simple, artless (not political), or innocent.

2. As children of God, we have God's life and nature.

VI. In the midst of the dark and corrupt world, which is usurped by Satan, our function is to shine as luminaries, holding forth the word of life: Phil. 2:15-16 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, **A.** Christ is the sun, with the church as the moon and the believers as the planets to reflect Him by holding forth the word of life. **B.** To hold forth the word of life is to apply it, to present it, and to offer it to the world by living out Christ. **Thu**

VII. Philippians 2:12-16 is a definition of living Christ in 1:19-21 Phil. 1:19-21 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged by knowing the things concerning you. For I have no one like-souled who will genuinely care for what concerns you; For all seek their own things, not the things of Christ Jesus.

A. The God who operates in us is the supplying Spirit.

B. To shine as luminaries is to magnify Christ, and to hold forth the word of life is to live Christ. **C.** The only way to live Christ is to be saturated with the word of life: **1.** The word of life is the living breath of God, the Spirit who gives life. **2.** We need to pray-read the Word, receiving the word of God by means of all prayer and petition. **Fri**

3. We need to sing-read the Word, letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom by singing. Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God. Eph. 5:18-19 ...but be filled in spirit, Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord,

4. If we are filled with the riches of the living Word day by day, spontaneously we will hold forth the word of life; this is to live Christ that He may be magnified in us.

VIII. Philippians 2:5-16 reveals the divine and rich provision for our constant salvation: **A. We have the Lord Jesus as our pattern. **B.** We have God operating in us. **C.** We are God's children, having God's life and the divine nature. **D.** We are luminaries qualified to reflect the divine light of Christ. **E.** We have the word of life to hold forth, to present, to others. **Sat****

Crucial Point①: Renew your consecration and work out your own salvation in your business life for the building up of the church

OL1: Now we need to carry out this salvation, to bring it to its ultimate conclusion, by our constant and absolute obedience with the inward motive of fear and the outward attitude of trembling. **OL2:** The inner operating God Himself is our salvation, and obedience to Him is the working out of our salvation. **Phil. 2:12** So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

We may experience the operating God daily as our practical salvation. Whenever we cooperate with God operating in us, we enjoy salvation. God's operation becomes our salvation. Furthermore, this salvation is the reprint, the reproduction, of the pattern. When the pattern is reprinted in us, it becomes our salvation. The reprinting of the pattern is accomplished by God operating in us.

To work out salvation is not to accomplish salvation. Rather, it is to carry out through continual obedience the salvation we have received. Paul's word about obedience in verse 12 answers to what he has previously said about Christ becoming obedient (v. 8). A very striking aspect of Christ as our pattern is His obedience unto death, even the death of the cross. As God, Christ first took the major step of emptying Himself, of laying aside the expression of His deity. Then, having emptied Himself and having taken the form of a man, He humbled Himself. This self-humbling is particularly related to obedience. The Bible underscores the importance of obedience. For example, in 1 Samuel 15:22 we are told that to obey is better than sacrifice. We who have received Christ as the pattern of our salvation must learn to always obey with fear and trembling. Within we should have fear as the motive, and without we should have trembling as our attitude, an indication that we have no confidence in ourselves.

According to Philippians 2:13, God is operating in us. Our salvation is not merely an action; it is a living Person, the Triune God Himself, operating in us. The God Paul speaks of in verse 13 is the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

Application to young working saints/ graduate students

Apply **Philippians 2:12** "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" to your business life or research life. Satan's sinful nature dwells in your flesh. And the soul that is dependent from your spirit becomes self and can be useful to God's purpose. Moreover, the environment that surrounds you is a crooked and perverted generation. So if you are not praying to be awakened, soon you will start the degraded living. That's why Paul has charged us to work out our own salvation by inward fear and outward trembling.

Many times, the important tasks at work are difficult to work out. But if your experience and enjoy Christ at work, you can break through by gaining Christ as wisdom, power and endurance etc. to work out tasks at your company. For this, you need to understand God's economy. Please consecrate yourself and your business life to the Lord. And experience the transformation by letting the Lord to

spread from your spirit into your mind and emotion in your soul and experience Christ in your business life for the building up of the church which is the focus of God's economy and not asking the blessing religiously for your business life. In this aspect, you can not deceive God by asking the blessing, claiming that you are putting God's economy first although you are actually putting your job first. God is not the One to be deceived. You need to be honest and pray like this: "Oh Lord Jesus, because I am lacking the consecration, I live for myself and I try to use Lord's blessing for myself. Please forgive my sins. I can not keep such a living that is contrary to the Word of God. I rely on Your mercy and grace. Oh Lord, let me be submissive to the operating God within to work out salvation of my soul. That is for me to become a vital person who is filled with Christ to bring propagation and building to the church. If it is so, my need in my business life will be added in the line of God's economy".

Crucial Point②: In the midst of the dark and corrupt world, which is usurped by Satan, let the word of God dwell in us, overcome the occupation of this world, shine as luminaries, holding forth the word of life

OL1: We should do all things without murmurings and reasonings in order that we may become blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish. **OL2:** The God who operates in us is the supplying Spirit. **OL3:** To shine as luminaries is to magnify Christ, and to hold forth the word of life. **Phil. 2:16** holding forth the word of life,

In **Philippians 2:15** Paul refers to "children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation." As children of God, we have God's life and nature. Being children of God with the divine life and nature, we are luminaries which reflect the light of the sun (Christ). As such, we are without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation. "Without blemish" is the total quality of being blameless and guileless. The Greek word translated "perverted" means "warped or twisted." There can be no doubt that today's generation is twisted and warped. In this kind of generation, we should shine as lights in the world.

As a result of God's operating in us, we spontaneously have a life in which the word of life is held forth to others. To hold forth the word of life is to present it to others, to offer it to them, to apply it to them. If God operates in us and we are filled with the Word, then wherever we are and whatever we say or do, we shall be an expression of the living God. This is to hold forth the word of life.

In verse 16...the Greek word rendered holding forth means to apply, present, offer. To hold forth the word of life is to present it to others and offer it to them, applying it to them in their situation. Wherever we may be, we need to hold forth the word of life; we need to present the word of life to others. What we offer to those around us should not be words of murmuring or reasoning, nor anything related to crookedness or perverseness. We should offer nothing other than the word of life.

Application to young people/ college students

Please be aware that you are in a generation where the world is crooked (out of the way incorrectly). In other words, it is unrighteous, full of falsehood and chaos. **1 John**

[2:15](#) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him; [16](#) Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. [17](#) And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.

FN of verse 16 “the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life” : The lust of the flesh is the passionate desire of the body; the lust of the eyes is the passionate desire of the soul through the eyes; and the vainglory of life is the empty pride, boast, and display of material things, of the present life. These are the components of the world.

FN of verse 17 “the world is passing away, and its lust”: As the world is against God the Father, so the things in the world, which constitute its lust, are against the will of God. The lust of the world, along with him who loves the world, is passing away, but he who does the will of God abides forever.

The world is a system established by Satan, which occupies people and prevents them from doing the will of God. It may or may not contain evil things. The purpose of this world is to occupy people and make them useless to God. For example, club activities themselves are not evil. But if club activities make it impossible to attend the Lord's day meeting or go out for the gospel or shepherding, the club activities become the world to the people. Satan's purpose is to occupy people with the world and prevent them from doing the will of God. In order to do the will of God, you must come out of the occupation of the world. While being occupied by this world, there is no way to do the will of God.

The person who carries out God's will last forever, but your time occupied by the world will pass and be wasted. In fact, the part concerning the world in 1 John is the continuation of the words to young men in [2:14](#). “I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.”

Young people of college students, brothers and sisters, you may want to balance the world and the church life since the world is fun. However, you cannot get both of them. Those who love the world are like those lying on the operating table in front of the surgeon. Satan can do whatever he wants with the ones who love the world. It does not matter if you feel that you do not have the power to come out of the world's bondage. Because you do not have the power to overcome the world in the first place. Instead, let the Word of the Lord dwell in you. The Word of the Lord has power, and gives you the power to overcome Satan and the world. [Heb. 4:12](#) For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

What you need is to exercise the spirit, open inside and pray as follows: “Oh Lord Jesus, I want to be the one who does the will of God. But inside me, I do not have the power to reject the world and to come out of the world. Lord Jesus, I cannot do anything but just turn to you and open widely to you. Every morning, I read and pray-read the words. Please let the Word of God dwell in me. I do not trust in me, I trust in the Word of God, and I believe that God's words can be the power in me

and overcome Satan and the world, the system of Satan. Because the Bible says so. May I be able to work out my own salvation, shine as luminaries in the world, and hold forth the word of life to my friends, in cooperation with the inner operating triune God.”

The people who do the will of God are “blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, holding forth the word of life.”(Phil. 2:15-16) FN of verse 15 “shine as luminaries” : The Greek word refers to luminaries that reflect the light of the sun. As such luminaries, the believers shine in the world. They do not possess any light in themselves but have a heavenly ability to reflect the light of Christ.

Crucial Point (3): Pray-read the Word, sing-read the hymnal, and enjoy the word of Christ to let the word dwell in us richly. Then pray for new believers and visit them.

OL1: The only way to live Christ is to be saturated with the word of life. The word of life is the living breath of God, the Spirit who gives life. **OL2:** We need to pray-read the Word, receiving the word of God by means of all prayer and petition.

OL3: We need to sing-read the Word, letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom by singing. [Col. 3:16](#) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

[Eph. 5:18-19](#) ...Be filled in spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord. [6:17](#) And receive...the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, [18](#) By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints...

In Ephesians 6:17 and 18 Paul tells us to receive the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, by means of all prayer and petition. Here Paul covers the aspects both of the Word and of the Spirit. Furthermore, he tells us to receive the Word of God by means of all prayer, praying at every time in spirit. We may receive the Word of God by means of all kinds of prayer: audible prayer and silent prayer, long prayer and short prayer, quick prayer and slow prayer, private prayer and public prayer.

To take the Word of God by means of prayer is to pray-read the Word. Whenever we come to the Word of God, we should not merely exercise our eyes to read or our mind to understand, but also exercise our spirit.... Our reading of the Bible should be mingled with prayer. This is pray-reading... When we pray-read the Word, the Word becomes to us the living breath of God, the Spirit. As a result, we are watered, nourished, refreshed, and enlightened....The Bible becomes in our experience the nourishing Spirit.

Many of us have read the Bible for years without realizing that we can receive the Word of God by singing. Is it your practice to take a verse of the Bible not only by reading, but also by singing? Christians have been taught to study the Bible and to read it, but not to sing it. We are thankful for the recovery of pray-reading the Word. Now we must go on to sing-read the Word of God. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom by singing. This is not my teaching; it is the charge given by the apostle Paul in Colossians 3:16.

If we sincerely desire to be saturated with the living Word

so that we may live Christ, we need to follow the practice advocated by Paul in Colossians 3:16. This means that we must let the word of Christ inhabit us in a rich way, not by mere knowledge from the mind, but by every kind of wisdom from our spirit, including singing and psalming. Oh, we need to sing and psalm the Word of God! To sing the Word is better than reading it, and to psalm the Word is even better than singing it. Psalming the Word includes musing upon it and enjoying it. As we psalm the Word, we dwell upon it, muse on it, and enjoy it, thereby giving more opportunity for the Word to saturate us.

If we only read the Word, there is little opportunity for the portion we read to sink into us and saturate our being. But if we sing the Word, and especially if we psalm it, we open our being more fully to the Word and give it the opportunity to sink into us and saturate us.... Let us sing and psalm the Word of God not only in the meetings. Let us come to the Word daily to sing and psalm it with our whole being. In singing and psalming the Word of God, let us exercise our voice, our mind, our heart, and our spirit.

Application to new believers

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me. 40 Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Bible is not a book of doctrine but is a book of life that provides you the life supply. Therefore, when you read the Bible, you need not only exercise your mind but also exercise your spirit to touch the living Lord. By setting your mind on spirit and touching the Lord with your spirit, you understand and enjoy in your mind. The best way is Pray-reading. Pray-reading is to mingle (1)reading, (2)calling on the Lord's name, and (3)praying the Word and your inspiration within. Apart from the outward form, exercise your spirit and practice the above three by mingling them. Then you can enjoy the Word, you can be filled with the Lord, and the Word of the Lord will dwell richly within you. For Sing-reading, by exercising your spirit and setting your mind on spirit, you should sing, declare and pray such as the banner of the conference.

And then you can be able to pray for the other new believers and visit them. Richness of life will flow out from you spontaneously.

Pray-reading can take place any time, but its best time is in the morning. Spend for 5 to 20 minutes to pray-read the Bible verses and read portion of the messages in "the Holy Word for Morning Revival" or other spiritual readings.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, Your word is my bread of life. I live by eating the Word every day. Especially, I build up the habit of eating the Word every morning. When I read the Bible, I come to the Lord, call on the Lord's name, read the Word, and pray. May the word of the Lord dwell in me and nourish me. And moreover, I pray for the other new believers and visit them to take care of them. May the life flow out of me!"

The High Gospel Topic 15:

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM

To believe is to receive the Slave-Savior not only for forgiveness of sins but also for regeneration. Those who thus believe become the children of God and the members of Christ in an organic union with the Triune God. To be baptized is to affirm this by being buried to terminate the old creation through the death of the Slave-Savior and by being raised up to be the new creation of God through the Slave-Savior's resurrection. To believe and to be so baptized are two parts of one complete step for receiving the full salvation of God. To be baptized without believing is merely an empty ritual; to believe without being baptized is to be saved only inwardly without an outward affirmation of the inward salvation. These two should go together. Moreover, water baptism should be accompanied by Spirit baptism, even as the children of Israel were baptized in the sea—water, and in the cloud—the Spirit.

Baptism is not a form or a ritual; it signifies our identification with Christ. Through baptism we are immersed into Christ, taking Him as our realm, that we may be united with Him as one in His death and resurrection.

We were born in the sphere of Adam, the first man, but through baptism we have been transferred into the sphere of Christ, the second man. When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death. His death has separated us from the world and the satanic power of darkness and has terminated our natural life, our old nature, our self, our flesh, and even our entire history.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

To believe is to believe into Christ, and to be baptized is to be baptized into Christ. By both faith and baptism we have entered into Christ, having thus put on Christ and become identified with Christ. Baptism practiced in a proper, genuine, and living way puts the believers into the name of the Triune God, the divine name; into Christ, a living person; into the death of Christ, an effective death; and into the Body of Christ, a living organism, that the believers may enter into an organic union not only with Christ but also with His Body. Furthermore, baptism brings the believers out of their old state into a new one, terminating their old life and germinating them with the new life of Christ that they may live in the Body of Christ, an organism, by the elements of the Triune God.

Hymn 936 BAPTISM-BURIED AND RISEN

In death's waters I am buried,
For with Christ my Savior, I have died;
Now the world cannot pursue me,
For its power here is nullified.
I with Christ have risen too,
Out of death with Him I walk and live;
Now the Spirit life supplies
And His strength exhaustless unto me doth give.

Hymn 938 BAPTISM-NO LONGER!

1. Already dead! And buried too! With the old man I am through! (X2)
2. No longer!! No longer!! Christ in me I'll testify! (X2)