

14 December 1992, Evening Sacrifice

Londrina, Brasil

Philippians 2:12

How do we interpret Phil 2:12? What does it say? How do you understand the 12th verse — "Just as you have always obeyed, not in my presence only but much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling." (Develop your salvation, operate your salvation, work your salvation out.) How do you understand that? In the absence of who? Who is writing the letter? Paul. So what is it saying? Affect your salvation, put your salvation into effect. Where do you work your salvation out? In YAHSHUA, in the body, in Messiah, in community — there is no difference in these terms. If you are outside the community, you are outside of Messiah; if you are outside Messiah, you are outside of the community. Is that biblical? Eph 2:12 — If you are not in the community, you are without God in the world. So you have to be in the community to be in Messiah; there is no mystical YAHSHUA. In the world, you can have Jesus, but you cannot have YAHSHUA — not the real One. (1 Jn 5:20)

So, there is an environment where you work out your salvation. God has so composed the Body where we work out our salvation. How do you work it out? In what way do you work it out? It is not something you earn but something you work out. You bring the salvation you have to completion by, for example, submitting to one another — with fear and trembling. So you fear and tremble that you might not submit to one another, that you might not work it out, cultivate it, carry it out to the goal and fully complete it. God has composed the body as a daily life in which one of the things that we must do is submit to one another — absolutely, (Eph 5:21) in the fear of Messiah. We are afraid we might not have grace if we don't submit to one another. Does not submitting to one another have consequences? Paul said to work it out with fear and trembling, so obviously there must be some consequences. (Do you think a Christian fears and trembles? How does he possibly work it out, without the Body?)

So there is a goal in mind. We have to work it out to the end, to the finish — the finish is the yobel. We ought to fear and tremble that we might not be walking in the works He has prepared in advance (Eph 2:10) for us to do, and make sure that we are not side-stepping what our Father intended for us to do. It is only in the body where we can do the works foreordained for us. And we do it — with fear and trembling that we might have a bad attitude or not receive our brothers or not receive correction that comes to us — that we would not please our Master. Is that what Paul meant?

One brother shared — One thing I saw with this discipline I was on is that salvation is not just when you are baptized, but salvation is a dynamic thing. It is to our last breath, salvation is to our last day, with every discipline we are being saved more and more.

In Luke 9:62 you see that very plainly stated, just like he said. "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God." He is not fit, he is not being fully developed, not being brought to completion. We are not being made fit, equipped, to enter into the kingdom if we look back. Because being made fit is a process we go through in the Body. Just think of the body, how our Father so composed the Body. It is a tremendous system. Every day there are so many circumstances in the community life that would give opportunity that we would be exposed of not being submissive or of having a bad attitude because we are rebuked, of not being able to take rebuke or correction, etc. [That's one of the reasons why many aspire to the kingdom, but few attain — because they can't take correction; they get a bad attitude. But children love rebuke and correction. They know they are loved if they are corrected. If we know our limitations, we love it.] So salvation is a process of life in the community. [It's not like living in your own little house with your four and no more and you go to the church on Sunday and

shake the pastors hand and go home and eat your pork roast and watch football and then go back to church for a prayer meeting that night. (Matt 6:32) How do you possibly work your salvation out like that?] But the Body is so composed that it causes us to grow and develop in our faith — grow in our spirit to develop the endurance we need. It's like exercise — it makes you strong and healthy. These trials and tribulations we go through are for a purpose. 'Someone did this, someone did that' -- our attitudes are exposed. How many mistakes do we make in a day? Hundreds. How do we deal with people when they make mistakes? How do we understand them since we're the same way? (Eph 4:1-3; Gal 6:1-3)

Salvation is a process that goes on if you are integrally involved in the social life of the community. In defining 'social', it always is associated with the word community. This social life taxes and effects your whole being.

So we work out our salvation with what? with fear and trembling. Why should we fear and tremble? (1 Cor 9:24-27; Isa 66:2,5). We're like a runner in a race: he prepares, he exercises self control in everything in order that he would win the race. If we don't prepare then even after we've enlisted others, we can be sidelined, put on the bench, put on the shelf. So Paul said he works out his salvation in fear and trembling that after he enlisted others he might be put on the bench himself. We have fear and trembling that we might not participate in everything that belongs to Messiah (Heb 3:14). It's a healthy fear. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. The fear of the Lord is clean.

Heb 6:6 — If we deviate from the faith and turn away, we hang him upon the cross, we say that YAHSHUA is an impostor, a huckster, we say, "he can't save, look at my life, see! I'm not saved, he didn't save me." it's doing 2 Peter 2:20-22.

Just think about 2 Pet 1:5-8 for a while. That's developing your faith. We will have a wonderful entry into the kingdom if we do that. That is the developing of your faith in community, everyday of your life -- adding diligence to your moral excellence, knowledge, exercising self control, pursuing godliness, brotherly kindness, love and it goes on in v. 9,10,11, "so that we will have a rich welcome into the kingdom."

So it is a good thing that we can understand in Phil 2:12 why we fear and tremble. And to know what happens (Jn 8:51) if we don't continue to obey the word of God, which causes a little bit of fear and trembling in us so that we wouldn't see death. (Col 1:22,23; 2 Cor 5:10,11). 2 Tim 4:7,8 — Paul talked about finishing the course; Acts 3:23 — being cut off if we don't heed the prophet; 1 Cor 16:22 — being cut off if we don't have an affectionate love for our Master; Matt 8:35 — being turned over to the torturers if we don't forgive our brother from our heart or (Lk 12:46) if we start speaking harshly, beating our brothers with our tongue. What he is trying to say is there are a thousand ways to go to hell and experience death and also there are a thousand opportunities to enter the kingdom by loving our brothers and having a good attitude.

So we must fear and respect His authority and stand in awe of His majesty and trust in Him as in Luke 12:8. Verse 9 — Can we disown Messiah? How does it read? "He who denies or disowns the Messiah who bought them, before men, he will be denied and disowned before the angels of God." How do we disown Him?

Jn 6:53 — What does it really take to live in community. You know, community is not really alternative — community is the Body of Messiah. Outside the church there is no community. They are synonymous terms: the community is the church; the church is the community. That's how it started out and it didn't change. Therefore to live in the community you have to do what v. 53 says, in His Body where forgiveness is expressed everyday — you being forgiven and you forgiving others; eating His body and drinking His blood; participating in the function of the

Body. And then, v. 54-56. That is total involvement in the Body life of the community of YAHSHUA. V. 57 — feed off Him. How? Well, His word, one another — partaking of one another — fellowship. Verse 58-65. No one can come to YAHSHUA unless the Father attracts them (v. 66-71). So, we work our salvation out with fear and trembling. Whoever doesn't, they don't know salvation.

Yadon — Salvation is not something dead but alive. Like a living cell always reproducing itself. Something that evolves or develops within you. Jn 6:66 — Where does life exist outside of Him? He gave us a place where we can be and remain and work out our salvation. If we don't feel this is happening within us it is time to let God shake us up.

[One brother, while Yadon was speaking, got the attention of another brother and spoke to him. Yoneq asked if there was a problem, telling them that we would give them time to work it out before the sacrifice if they needed some time. "No," the brother responded, "nothing important." Yoneq said that if it wasn't important, then he shouldn't have interrupted his brother. That wasn't respecting his brother. He said that this is something we ought to have fear and trembling about — respecting our brothers.]

If we love the world or our old life (the world), it means the love of God the Father has not yet been poured out in our hearts. (Rom 5:5; 1 Jn 2:15). If you love the things of the world, if you love doing what you wanted when you wanted, going here or there whenever you wanted, it simply means that we don't have salvation since it says that those who don't have a king did what was right in their own eyes. Such people are out of coordination with the body, not integrally involved in the social life of the Body. They rather have friendships outside the Body. It shows that they don't have the Holy Spirit that leads us to the social life in the Body and to develop friendships in the Body. 1 Jn 2:15 is the word of God. If you love the world, the love of God is not in you. The world is under the influence of destruction. Do you love the world? If you do you are worthless to God. Our Master makes us worthy. By His blood we are cleansed and only by acceptance of Him are we worthy.

Yadon — It is amazing that we truly have life in us. We were dead in our sins searching out our own interests. But today something is happening within us, it is life. We can see it. It is happening. It moves. It really amazes me to see the life of salvation that is being worked out within us.

Yoneq — You spoke the word: Phil 2:13.