INTRODUCTION

After reading the Old Testament, the New Testament and having more than 4000 years of hindsight, it is obvious to most that God’s will for us is not our temporary comfort down here on Earth, but our eternal blessings in Heaven.

Paul exhorted the Philippians to work out their salvation through their daily living by connecting their belief to their behavior, and their confession to their conduct.

God Looks to Bless Obedient Children

- v12. The Philippians were obedient whether they were being watched or not.
- They would even obey the speed limit even if police were not around – Would we? Do we?
- Great blessings from obeying God’s laws and obeying the good laws of the land include answered prayers. Proverbs 28:9; 1 Peter 3:7

How should we work out our salvation with fear and trembling?

- Paul didn’t say ‘work FOR our salvation’, but ‘work OUT our salvation’.
- This simply means whatsoever we do in thought, in words, & in deeds, we do it wholeheartedly for God. Colossians 3:23
- Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Psalms 2:11

Never forget our God is a consuming fire, worthy of our utmost respect. He who does the work of God with slackness. Jeremiah 48:10

- Christianity is not for wimps – Count the cost.
- v13. Fortunately, God is for us, not against us. He even enables us to accomplish His will, beginning with our desire to do so – Yet we are not robots.

Our Goal is to be Blameless & Above Reproach

- The world is watching every move.
- What is the difference between “grumbling and disputing” and “contending for the faith”?
  - Aren’t they the same in most churches?
- Paul wants us to be “shining lights” or positive role models to a perverse & wicked generation.
- So, we need to be on guard over petty “disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions” 1 Timothy 6:4

Are We Bright Stars or Cannon Fodder?

- Paul was being sacrificed, & he took it joyfully – and he encouraged others to do likewise.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Wouldn’t we be blessed to have friends like Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus who would gladly give their all?
- Let’s be like these guys – dependable, encouraging, trustworthy, bold, loving, brotherly, soldierly, minister of needs, hard workers, caring for others before ourselves.

NEXT WEEK: Philippians 3:1-21. We need to press toward the goal for the price of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.