

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

I am on the worship team at church, playing keyboards, and every week I get a list of songs that we are doing that Sunday, along with the chords and notes to play for each song. But when I am given them, I do not just read the words and chords and play whatever I want, thinking, “*Oh, I don’t like this song, or I think it should be played this way or in this key instead*” rather than how it is written on the paper or sent to me electronically. No, the worship Leader determines what songs we will do, and what key each song will be in and what chords or notes will be played for each song. It’s not up to interpretation, because if I do it my way, instead of the worship Leaders way, it will sound awful, because I would be out of tune with everyone else, and the result would not be worship, but rather chaos. Plus it is also my responsibility to read the music, and “***work out***” the song so I am playing just as the Worship Leader wants it done.

In today’s verse, Paul is writing to the Philippians to “***work out your own salvation***” and not just work it out, but do it “***with fear and trembling***” So, does this mean we are to earn or do works to earn our salvation? No, not at all, Paul also wrote to the Ephesians that, “***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.***” Ephesians 2:8-9 Did you catch what he said, “***not of works***” and why “***lest anyone should boast.***”

Now think of my example of doing worship. I am given written chords and notes to play. It’s up to me to play those exact chords and notes, if not then I am playing the wrong song. Even if one chord is off, it makes the song sound bad, and if it is a really weird chord, it could sound like nails on a chalkboard. That’s why it’s important that I “work it out” so that I am playing with everyone else and the way it is written.

We are also given the word of God, and in it are the words of eternal life, which testify of Jesus. My life verse is **John 6:68** “***But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."*** And it’s not a matter of doing works but doing (working out) what the bible says to have eternal life, which is, “***that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.***” **John 3:15-17**

That’s why it’s so important to read and study your bible so you know what those instructions are for living a Christian life. But also to do what it says as well, because with my music example, I can study the songs all I want and memorize each note and chord and the order they are in and know the song forward and backward. But until I actually play it, it means nothing,

because there is no worship of God, and I am not ushering others into God's presence to worship Him either.

So starting today, read and study your bible everyday, and also workout what the Lord shows you each day, that you may walk in His ways, following His path for your life.

- † **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

- † **Joshua 22:5** *But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

- † **Proverbs 8:6 (MSG)** *Don't miss a word of this—I'm telling you how to live well, I'm telling you how to live at your best.*