

## Owning Salvation 06-05-22

*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; Philippians 2:12*

Paul's admonition to the Philippians was to the importance of doing the work that God has given us in order that we might receive God's gift of salvation. We often use this passage to refute doctrines such as "saved by faith/grace alone" or "once saved - always saved". But there is another aspect of this passage that is worth considering: taking ownership of salvation.

Ownership is a concept often found in business settings. "Taking ownership is about taking initiative. We take ownership when we believe that taking action is not someone else's responsibility. You, as an individual, are accountable for the quality and timeliness of an outcome, even when you're working with others. You care about the outcome the same way you would care as an owner of the organization" Modern Manager, March 2017

Taking ownership in Salvation should look much the same. It involves taking initiative, and being accountable for both quality and timeliness. It means that your salvation is not someone else's responsibility. Finally, it means that in regards to the things of God, you care as the owner cares.

Taking Initiative in Salvation: Initiative refers to the idea of being pro-active in purpose. It involves finding things to act upon before the need becomes obvious. For example, there are actions to improve your salvation mentioned in 2 Peter 1:10-11 that "make your calling more certain". You can prepare yourself to overcome trials by equipping yourself with the armor of God (Ephesians 2:10-18). To take ownership of salvation means to take initiative.

Not Another's Responsibility: It is important for us all to appreciate that the church CANNOT save you. You are not saved being in a good church, meaning that you can be in a church with good elders & preacher and a good reputation and still be lost. We can consider Revelation 2-3 as examples of this. You are saved by obedient faith; by hearing (Acts 11:14) and loving the truth (2 Thes. 2:10). Though many will try, you cannot blame others for failing (1 Kings 13, etc.).

Being Accountable: In the parable of the talents (Luke 19:12) Jesus taught that when He returns there will be an accounting for our "talents". What are our talents? Time, blessings, ability, opportunity are just some of the things we consider God having blessed us with. We are each responsible for these things, and God does not accept "burying" our abilities.

Caring as the Owner: Ownership involves taking an attitude of caring as though we own the business. In our case, what does our Supervisor want? He tells us that He desires all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4), and for the saved to remain faithful (Matt. 24:13, Rev. 2:10). He desires for our lights to shine in darkness (Matt. 5:16). Taking ownership means these desires become our desires; we must want all men saved, and to see the saints endure to the end.

We are His workmanship; we were created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10) We need to take ownership of our salvation in order to fulfill the Law of Christ.