

(Announcement concerning the film "Joni" to be shown Oct. 3)

I like to read Phil. 2:5-16. (reading text). I believe most of you are familiar with the book of Galatians. You know the strong emphasis Paul puts there on the fact that our salvation is through faith, faith alone. We can add nothing to it by our works. It is entirely by faith. To some it may contradict that in this 12th verse here: continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. But here as in many places in Scripture a word has a breadth of meaning. This word salvation has a breadth of meaning which it is very important we be familiar with.

There is the first step in salvation, the most vital one of all--salvation from the guilt of sin, and this is by grace alone. It is only through what Jesus Christ has done that we can receive salvation and freedom from the guilt of sin. It is extremely important we have a clear understanding of this fact.

The Christian should never be bothered with guilt feelings. The Christian may have guilt feelings. He ought to have because we all do what is wrong. We all make serious mistakes, and these serious mistakes sometimes may pass by and nobody knows anything about them, but we feel bad about them. Sometimes a little mistake we make causes great harm and havoc to others. Then we tend to have terrorist (?) guilt feelings, but the Christian should not have guilt feelings and he should recognize his guilt feelings. He should repent and turn away from his errors, but he should realize that Jesus Christ on the cross bore the penalty for our sins past present and future. The guilt of our sins is entirely born by the Lord Jesus Christ.

So the Christian should have complete freedom from anxiety. He should be able to trust Christ. To repent of each individual sin or mistake, to believe that Christ has given us his forgiveness and go forward with confidence.

Nevertheless v. 12 is very important in our lives. We should continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. God did not give us salvation that we should then enter into heaven just as we are then. If we do he has of course saved us and we shall be saved, but in the case of most of us it was His intention that much more should be accomplished in our salvation. That we should gain freedom from more and more of the power of sin. We should make progress in God's service and this requires that we work on it. That we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

This is true in every avenue of our lives. People sometimes have the impression that education is something that is just poured into you. You go to a school for a few years. You get a degree. Someth~~ing~~ has been poured into you. You've got it! But ~~xxx~~ it isn't that way at all. It is something at which you have to work. The brighter you are the more need there is