



Discussion Notes

The New Year • Philippians 2:12b–16
January 4, 2026 • Dave Solmes

At the beginning of a New Year, it is wise to take advantage of the turn of a calendar year to consider what our priorities will be in 2026.

Read Philippians 2:12b–16

Paul is writing from a Roman prison cell, facing a future with much uncertainty — he was awaiting sentencing. Rather than sit idle, Paul got to work, learning and writing.

Big Idea: Work out What God is Working In.

1. Verse 12b: Work Out Your Salvation

This is a very specific verb that Paul chooses for “work.” A “work,” or active process that brings something to its intended result. The result of the “work” can be for bad or good.

The work Paul is encouraging is to figure out all that Jesus gifted them, by way of salvation — work out your salvation. Work with everything they have received when they gave their life to Jesus, and Jesus gave them their gift of salvation.

Romans 8:2 — The work of salvation is given by Christ and accomplished by the Spirit.

2. Verse 13: Christ Working In Us

The word Paul uses for “work” in this verse emphasizes continuity, continuation, and with only one intended result, and that is for our good.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

God’s work in us is all about making us a new creation by giving us:

- New Nature: Ephesians 4:24–32
- New Heart and New Spirit: Ezekiel 36:26
- New Mind: Romans 12:2

Read Philippians 2:13

God's Intended good purpose is according to:

- His Will
- His Action
- His Fulfilling of His Good Purpose for our lives

Discussion Questions:

- Do you have any new year goals?
- What would a year ahead look like if our interest was to have God as our #1 priority?
- What are the practical things we can do to "work out" our salvation?
- How has the gift of salvation actually changed your life?
- How does the new life Christ offered to us change your daily life?
- What are practical things we can do to work out what Christ is working in?