ALDERWOOD

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Title: Do we have a role in our own salvation?
Text: Philippians 2:12-30
Big Idea: We have a part to play in the story of our redemption

1. We have a part to play in the story of our redemption.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 1:28b This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God.

2. What is Salvation?

   Deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss

3. What does Jesus save us from?

   The simplistic answer: Hell

   The Bible's answer: sin and all of the consequences of sin—spiritual, relational, and physical.

4. Three salvation realities:

   1. Justification: We have been saved.

      Ephesians 2:8-9 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—[9] not from works, so that no one can boast.

2. Sanctification: We are being saved.

   1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.

3. Glorification: We will be saved

Romans 13:11 [Wake up] because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

Philippians 2:14-16a Do everything without grumbling and arguing, [15] so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, [16] by holding firm to the word of life.

Deuteronomy 32:5 His people have acted corruptly toward him; this is their defect—they are not his children but a devious and crooked generation.

Daniel 12:3 Those who have insight will shine
like the bright expanse of the heavens,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever.

Philippians 2:16b-18 Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run or labor for nothing. [17] But even if I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrificial service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. [18] In the same way you should also be glad and rejoice with me.

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sunday, October 11, 2026

LOOK BACK (5-10 MINUTES)

Open your group with a moment to **connect** and look back.

1. How is everyone doing? Did anything notable happen this week?
2. Did anything in the reading for this week impact you?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE (30-45 MINUTES)

We're in a study of Philippians, a letter written by the Apostle Paul from a prison cell. This letter is a powerful picture of a life fully centered on Jesus—where every circumstance, every relationship, and every decision is shaped by one defining reality: Jesus is everything. Philippians invites us out of a life of observation and into a life of participation. It calls us to reorient everything around Jesus—to say with Paul, "For me, to live is Christ." And as we do, we discover that this kind of life isn't a burden—it's where real joy is found. This week, we are in **Philippians 2:12-30, and the big idea is: We have a part to play in the story of our redemption.**

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

1. Have someone read **Philippians 2:12-13** alongside **Ephesians 2:8-9**. Paul tells believers to "work out" their salvation, yet Ephesians clearly states we are saved by grace through faith, not works. How does understanding the difference between justification (we have been saved) and sanctification (we are being saved) help clarify our active role in redemption?

2. Have someone read **Philippians 2:14-16a**. Paul instructs us to do everything without grumbling or arguing so that we may shine like stars in a crooked generation. Why are daily attitudes like complaining or division so destructive to our Christian witness, and how does living blamelessly make God's salvation visible to others?

3. Have someone read **Philippians 2:16b-18**. Paul speaks of his own life being "poured out as a drink offering" for the service of their faith, yet he responds with joy and calls them to rejoice with him. What allows a believer to find genuine joy even when their life requires sacrifice and hard labor for God's kingdom?

4. The sermon highlights that salvation touches every area of our lives—spiritual, relational, and physical and requires us to cooperate with God's work in us. What is one area of your daily routine where you need to **grow** by letting God transform your heart and actions?

5. Since we are called to "shine like stars" by holding firm to the word of life in a dark world, how can you **go** into your workplace, neighborhood, or family this week and actively reflect God's light through a positive, selfless attitude?

CLOSE AND PRAY (5-10 MINUTES)

As the discussion comes to a close, transition to a time of prayer. Praying together is one of the best ways for your group to **connect.** Often, splitting into smaller groups for prayer can be beneficial. This can look many different ways, but the goal is for your group to be comfortable praying together, sharing what is really going on in your lives, and asking God to work as you follow Jesus together.