

# A Balanced Theology and a Balanced Life

Sermon 10 in the Philippians Series

## Philippians 2:12-13

### I. As You Have always Obeyed 12a

### II. Various Interpretations of Verses 12b-13

#### A. What these verses can not mean.

##### 1. Salvation by works

The religion of almost every religion.

##### 2. Easy-Believism or modern decision-ism

We make a choice and God is passive allowing us to make our own choice.

##### 3. You are saved by grace – but you keep your salvation by works.

Just another form of legalism.

##### 4. Hyper-Calvinism – Antinomianism – the Keswick error

Hyper-Calvinism – “I can’t help it if I sin. God predestined it.”

Antinomianism – “It doesn’t matter if I sin – “sin” doesn’t apply to me, because I am in Christ and all my sins are paid.

**Romans 3:8** -- And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people **slanderously** charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Keswick error – “Anytime I try to obey God – I find it leads me into more sin.”

These errors arise from an “out of balance theology”.  
We can take a truth and stretch it into an untruth.

We must avoid a performance-based Christian life.  
Nor do we want to live a passive Christian life.

## B. The Remedy to These and Other Errors

Verse 12 exists – don't ignore it.

Verse 13 is vital to understand and complete verse 12.

## III. What These Verses Do Mean

1. Work out your own salvation
2. With fear and trembling
3. For
4. It is God who works in you
5. Both to will and to do for His good pleasure

### **John Murray**

“God's working in us is not suspended because we work, nor our working suspended because God works. Neither is the relation strictly one of Co-operation as if God did his part and we did ours so that conjunction and coordination of both produced the required result. God works in us and we also work. But the relation is that because God works we work. All working out of salvation on our part is the effect of God's working in us, not the willing to the exclusion of the doing and not the doing to the exclusion of the willing, but both the willing and the doing.”

Ephesians 2:8-13