

# New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church

[newhebronlr.org](http://newhebronlr.org)

Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr.

## Bible Study

*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”  
(Ps. 119:105)*



### Study of Philippians, “The Epistle of Joy” [pt.11]

{Philippians 2:12-15}

**v.12)** *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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.*

**v.13)** *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

**v.14)** *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

**v.15)** *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

**v.12,13)**

- Paul presents two opposite but harmonious sides of the Christian life, the first emphasizes man's responsibility based on the truths just presented about Christ [v.5-12] and the second emphasizes God's enablement which helps us fulfill this responsibility.
- “as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence...” – this is a reminder to us that who we are when no one is looking is who we really are. There is never a time when a true believer is not responsible to obey the Lord.
- “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...” – this means to “work out,” not “work for.” This is not a call to a works-based salvation. [Eph. 2:8,9]
- The idea is to progress to the end or completion in spiritual growth and maturity. This process is what the Bible calls sanctification. [1 Cor. 6:9-11]
- “it is God which worketh in you...” – Paul now explains the "cause" of the "effect". In other words he explains that it is through the power of God that we are enabled to obey His commands.
- God's power is not designed to take away our responsibility to daily pursue godly living.

**v.14,15)**

- Paul cautions them against complaining. [Ps. 77:7-11]

