

## Serious Stuff

Within the church the topic of salvation is always upon our lips. We hear the words in services of Christian worship. We read of salvation in the magazines of the church. We have heard about salvation in sermons. We all know about salvation .... or do we? There is an old saying which says, 'Familiarity breeds contempt.' We know what it means. It means that constant exposure to someone or some idea often leads to a devaluing of that person or idea. We take them for granted or we become too casual, assuming that we have nothing more to learn.

Christians are certainly very prone to treat the subject of salvation with too much familiarity. Church members can very easily become too casual, thinking that they 'know it all', and have nothing more to learn! The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, **"work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"**. The words of the Apostle clearly imply that we cannot treat the matter of our salvation with a casual attitude. Salvation is a subject that requires the utmost seriousness! "Work out you **own** salvation." The Apostle puts the onus on the individual, i.e. *you personally* need to work out your salvation! No one else can do this for you!

What *seriousness* do we apply to the matter of our salvation? Should we relinquish some of our 'entertainments' (of whatever variety), so as to ensure the responsible fulfillment of your Christian obligations? What about your patterns of sleep? Are you too tired on Sunday mornings to pay close attention to Christian worship and the teaching of the sermon? What disciplines are you applying in your life to improve your obedience to Christ? Think about what this verse says! Salvation is serious stuff!

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