

“Work Out Your Own Salvation”

Philippians 2:12-13

Introduction: Too many people put too much trust in the reliability of others. People are more than willing to trust anything put out by their religious organization. Just as bad is the notion that preachers are never wrong. We cannot be so naive as to think that all religious people know what they are talking about (including members of the Lord’s Church).

I. Everyone is responsible for their own salvation.

A. We cannot blame anyone else for our misunderstandings (Phil. 2:12).

B. We are expected to study for ourselves (2 Tim. 2:15).

C. We are expected to evaluate our own standing before God (2 Cor. 13:5).

II. We must correctly evaluate all information we receive.

A. We cannot accept anything at face value (Acts 17:11).

B. We must challenge every source against the truth (1 John 4:1).

III. Reasons skepticism might just save our souls.

A. Because some sincere and honest people may unknowingly teach error (Acts 18:24-26).

1. Apollos accurately and fervently taught the things of God; yet he taught error concerning baptism.

2. If it could happen to a God-fearing preacher could it happen to you?

B. Because some people are insincere (Phil. 1:12-18; 2 Cor. 2:17).

1. Some people are motivated to cause division (Rom. 16:17)?

2. Some people will pervert God’s word to develop their own following (Acts 20:29-30)?

C. Because some people teach the truth but practice error (Gal. 2:11-13).

1. Peter played the hypocrite in this practice.

2. Barnabas got carried away by their error.

D. Because some people teach error as a means for gain (1 Tim. 6:3-5).

1. What possible reason would a false teacher have to spread the truth? The only reason a false teacher would even open a Bible is for some other reason than the desire to follow it (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

2. Amazingly, people will follow these heretics (2 Pet. 2:1-3).

Conclusion: Honestly, I don’t even want you to trust anything I preach unless you can prove it to be true against the scriptures. I could be wrong. If I am wrong,

would you want to jeopardize your soul because you believed it? There is only one way to prevent the loss of your soul due such error. You must take responsibly for your own soul's salvation (Phil. 2:12).