

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

[www.nccdighton.org](http://www.nccdighton.org)

5/12/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 85

### **"work out your salvation"**

Refers to your involvement in sanctification. Sanctification is salvation come alive in you, it is living in the Gospel reality, it is realizing God's eternal love for you. You do so "with fear and trembling" in awe of and respect for all that He's done.

### **Kneading**

Jesus was never distracted from saving us. Even today, He's kneading out salvation in us - that is sanctification!!! We mustn't become rigid, we must relax and let Him massage our souls. There may be knots He has to focus on, but it's all good. :)

### **The Gospel Focus**

We've now gone back to the very words of Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry in order to nail down what His focus actually was, given the fact that He is the giver of both the Great Commission and the Holy Spirit, our Helper in it.

### **So-Called "Spiritual Maturity"**

Neither Jesus nor His disciples ever used the phrase "spiritual maturity", nor were they, or their ministries, preoccupied with the concept of it. Nor was the early church (Ac 2, 3, 10, 17).

### **The Parable of the Flower**

Just like the flower and its growth is simply accomplished through God's grace, so goes the spiritual life. Intellectual striving is the antithesis of grace, and it leads to bondage, not clarity. Freedom is afforded to those with the faith of a child.

### **"in the defense and confirmation of the gospel"**

This sums up the nature of Paul's ministry. He "fought the good fight" (2Ti 4:7) to preserve the Gospel complete and unstained. He preached "by grace through faith" (Eph 2:8-9) as the lynchpin of a believer's confidence in Christ. He just wanted others to know Christ (Eph; 1Co 2:2; 2Co 11:3).

### **The MacArthur Study Bible - NASB**

Recommended Study Bible

## **The Book of Ephesians**

There wasn't any primary point of contention in view, therefore, Paul was free to expand upon the glories of the Gospel in the lives of believers! It's a magnificent treatise on what living the Gospel looks like in a church that hasn't been overrun by the flesh.

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### **Synthesizing...**

- Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- 1Co 2:16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

### **Doctrines Don't Mature, People Do**

The Church isn't responsible for seeing to it that Christ's doctrines are "matured". His doctrines preexisted humanity (Jn 1:1). Paul and the other Apostles wrote about confirming and defending the Gospel (ala Php 1:7), not "maturing" it somehow, or suggesting their disciples "progress" it further through determination/striving.

### **The Completed Canon ~ A.D. 95**

If the Church was so mature by then, then why were the Apostles still fighting the exact same battles? Their opposition may have been more mature, but the Gospel given was already fully matured. The true Church wasn't somehow "more mature" by doctrinal standards. It may have been expanding, but the doctrines didn't somehow "mature".

### **Maturity**

Maturity in Jesus' mind was opposite from His disciples' mind. There are multiple examples of Jesus having to readjust His disciples (e.g., Mk 10:13-16; Lk 9:46-48; 22:24-30; etc.).