



Philippians 2:12-18

October 18, 2020

"I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

Begin with prayer. "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (Psalm 119:18).

Last week, in Philippians 2:5-11, Paul set before us the breathtaking example of Christ. In our passage this week, Paul challenges the Philippians to demonstrate the same faith and obedience in their everyday lives and relationships.

We Work Out, He Works In

Read Philippians 2:12-13:

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

[Q] How can Paul tell the Philippians to work and at the same time say that God is doing the work?

[Q] What do you notice about the "work" in each of the following verses?

1 Corinthians 15:10

Ephesians 2:10

Philippians 1:6

Hebrews 13:20-21

[Q] Compare and contrast Philippians 2:12-13 with Deuteronomy 11:22-23:

For if you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to do, loving the Lord your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to him, ²³ then the Lord will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you.

What do the people of God do, what does the Lord do? What is different for God's people now?

"... *with fear and trembling* simply meant that they were to take the task seriously instead of treating it as an afterthought." — Pastor Rob O'Neal

[Q] In what area of your walk with God do you need to "work" more seriously?

"It is vitally important to grasp the connection between God's sovereignty and our responsibility in verses 12 and 13. The text does not say, "Work to acquire your salvation, for God has done his bit and now it is all up to you." Nor does it say, "You may already have your salvation, but now perseverance in it depends entirely on you." Still less does it say, "Let go and let God. Just relax. The Spirit will carry you." Rather, Paul tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, precisely because God is working in us both to will and to act according to his good purpose (2:12-13)....God himself is working in us both to will and to act: he works in us at the level of our wills and at the level of our doing." — Basics for Believers, Baker Academic, 1996 pp. 61-62.

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Psalm 2:11

Shine

Read Philippians 2:14-18:

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

[Q] What is it like to be around a person who grumbles and disputes? What are we to do without grumbling? When are you tempted to grumble or complain? When are you tempted to dispute?

[Q] From verse 15, list the results of being a person who does not grumble or dispute:

If you have time: In Numbers 11:1-15, see how God dealt with the Israelites' grumbling against Him and Moses after God had delivered them from Egypt. Why does God treat grumbling so seriously?

[Q] What does *holding fast to the word of life* mean?

Drink offering, sacrifice (v. 17):
In Old Testament times, an offering of wine or water was poured on top of an animal sacrifice presented to God. Paul imagines his life as a "drink offering" poured out on top of the Philippians' sacrificial service of others. — *Discipleship Explored Handbook*

Apply

[Q] How can holding fast to the word of life help you keep from grumbling and arguing in your relationships? Be specific about how you can work on that this week.