

Home Group Helps

Philippians 2:12-18

Joy for the Journey: Sanctification Without Complaint

¹² 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. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 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.

Three Aspects of a Mature Christian:

I. A Sanctified Life (v.12-13) – ¹² 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.

II. A Shining Light (v.14-15) – ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 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,

III. A Sacrificial Libation (v.16-18) – 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.

1. Launching Question(s):

- Do you find living the Christian life to be difficult?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul begins this passage with the word, “therefore,” so, the following verses relate to the humiliation and exaltation of Christ just mentioned in vs. 2:1-11.
- Why should our obedience naturally follow a recognition of Christ’s greatness?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In vs. 12, Paul says, “work out your own salvation.”
- What does this verse NOT mean (see Eph. 2:8-9)?
- What DOES this verse mean? Consider the following verses:
 - a. **Eph. 2:10** – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
 - b. **Phil. 1:6** – “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

- c. **James 4:7** – “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 - d. **1 Cor. 9:27** – “I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”
 - e. **1 Tim. 4:7-8** – “Train yourself for godliness.”
 - f. **Gal. 6:9** – “Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”
- Paul further states that we are to work out our own salvation “with fear and trembling.”
 - What DOES he mean by “fear and trembling?” Consider the following verses:
 - a. **Ps. 2:11** – “Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”
 - b. **Isaiah 66:2** – “To this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”
 - c. **Ps. 111:10** – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov. 1:7; 9:10).
 - Paul goes on in vs. 13 to clarify, “for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
 - How does God “work in you?”
 - How does he also help reform your “will” as well as your “work?”
 - How does this give God “pleasure?”
 - Why do you think Paul specifically chooses to warn about the sin of “grumbling and questioning” in this context?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What are some ways that we can “shine as lights in the world” “in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation” (v. 15)?

5. Application Question(s):

- What is one habit in your life that you need to “work out” of your life this week?