

PHILIPPIANS
2:12-18

Philippians 2:12-18.

1. How do we live out our faith? One day at a time, we seek to live in a way consistent with the reality of our position in Christ.

a. Knowing that we are not able to *achieve* salvation through our own merit, what do you suppose that it means when it says to “work out your salvation?” (2:12-13). Seek to live it out (love God and our neighbor) out of gratitude to Him for our salvation (Rom 12:1-2). “Do that from which something results.” Read Jas 2:14-26. Works are the result of faith. If there is no fruit, or bad fruit, the question needs to be asked, “What sort of faith do we have, saving faith or mere outward profession?”

b. What are we to keep in mind as we seek to do this? (2:13) That it is Him working in and through us. We do not and never will have the power within us to live a life honoring to God. It is only as we seek Him and yield ourselves to Him that change and good fruit result. If we abide in Him we will bear much fruit (Jn 15:5).

2. Verses 14-16a seem to be illustrating *how* we are to do this. What does it say? That we are to move ourselves out of the way. Never forget that God works in and through us in *spite* of us, not *because* of us.

a. Look up and define:

- **Complaining:** of displeasure or complaining (more privately than in public), said of Grecian Jewish converts against Hebrews, [Act 6:1](#); in general admonitions, [Phl 2:14](#); [1Pe 4:9](#), RV, "murmuring" (AV, "grudging").¹ Inward complaining and displeasure.

- **Arguing:** “disputing” Some people just cannot stand to be led. They carp, whine, find fault with anything that wasn’t their idea. God commands us to stop it. Nothing good comes of any situation when our ego gets involved.

b. From 2:14-16a, how should our lives bear witness to Christ? As good testimonies to the power and presence of Christ in our lives. Love for God and our neighbor resulting in unity, and harmony.

c. What term does Paul use to describe the world in which we live? (2:15) Generation. (GK: “genea,”) the age in which we live.

¹ Vine, W.E. “Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words,” <https://www.blueletterbible.org>

3. Look up and write down anything that you can find out about the drink offering. “A liquid offering of wine, poured out at the foot of the altar to accompany a burnt, fellowship or grain offering.”² It was tipped and poured out until empty.

a. How was Paul describing his life? As an offering being poured out. He was willing to give all he was and had for the sake of His Lord.

b. How does he tie this in to their faith? His ministry to the Gentiles had landed him in prison. For him, to see the salvation and growth of people was worth all he had been through. In his prison letters, he does not ask for deliverance but for the ability to speak boldly. His life was poured out for the benefit of the saints and the glory of God.

c. What was his attitude regarding this and how did he want them to feel about it? He was happy to see fruit and wanted the Philippians to feel the same way. See Phil 1:3-11 - he was rejoicing over the fruit evident in their lives and their partnership with him in the gospel ministry.

4. Based on this (and 1:12-18a) what should be our attitude toward ministry? Be specific.

All ministry (if it is worth anything) is for Him.

We need to trust Him in our circumstances.

He is at work in and through us.

Our eyes need to be on Him.

We need to love each other (& not fight)

Serve until our course is finished (2 Tim 4)

HOMEWORK

Philippians 2:19-30

Read the book again (or for the first time if you haven't already. It is short!). When you finish, look over 2:19-30 and answer the following questions:

1. How does Paul describe:

- a. Timothy?**
- b. Epaphroditus?**

2. How did Paul feel about his situation (2:24)?

- a. Compare this with 2 Tim 4:6-18 How is the tone of this letter different from Philippians?**
- b. What was the main thing for Paul in 2 Tim 4:6-18? What was important no matter what happened?**

3. What had happened to Epaphroditus that made Paul desire to send him back home?

- a. Paul had the gift of healing, so what happened? (See Act 14:8-10, 19:11-12, 28:8; 2 Cor 12:7-10)**
- b. How does Paul say that we are to regard and treat the Lord's servants?**
- c. How should we treat *anyone* who is serving Him? You might want to look up Rom 16 and see how Paul describes those in Corinth and Rome with whom he had served. List the ways he describes them.**

²<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/dictionary-of-bible-themes/7350-drink-offering>