



RESILIENT JOY

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

SERMON NOTES

LET'S WORK OUT WHAT GOD HAS WORKED IN

Philippians 2:12-18

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12)

"for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13)

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14)

"so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky" (Philippians 2:15)



RESILIENT JOY

WEEK SIX DEVOTIONAL

OVERVIEW OF THE PASSAGE

In encouraging the Philippian church, Paul challenges them to see that their faith works. They are to “work out” what God is “working in.” As this happens, their lives will be part of God’s bigger mission—they will “shine like stars in the sky.” Paul’s plea is for the Philippians to obey God regardless of whether Paul is with them or not. He states that it shouldn’t matter whether he is at work among them or not because God always is. Paul wants them to work out their salvation with fear and trembling because God is in them and among them.

In other words, he is calling them to integrity that reveals itself in attitudes that match their actions. The integrity Paul calls them to is possible because God truly is at work among those who hold fast to the word of life, the gospel.

So, how are you responding to what God is doing in you?

FAMILY TALK

(Use these questions to prompt conversation with your family after the sermon.)

1. What does salvation mean to you?
2. How do you “work out” or demonstrate your salvation to others?
3. Why does our salvation need to be worked out? How does that look in your life?
4. How can being unified for the work of the Gospel happen more naturally in our church?
5. How can you move away from grumbling and complaining this week and move toward unity and community? How can you speak better about people this week?
6. How can you live out your salvation practically this week? What are some ways you could elevate Christ over yourself in your thoughts, actions, and relationships?

GOING DEEPER / PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

The “Going Deeper” devotional that accompanies the sermon series provides questions for study, reflection, and application. Plan to take several days to answer the questions giving you more time to process and integrate the passage into your life in a more meaningful way.

Background to the Study:

View the Bible Project overview on Philippians to get a better idea of the content of the book.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/philippians/>

Phil. 2:12-18

Read the passage and highlight the words or phrases that impacted you the most. Take time to reflect on those words and ask the Spirit to show you what he is revealing to you from this time in the word.

Information Questions:

1. Paul states that God is at work in the Philippians. How would an understanding of this reality motivate or empower the Philippians to obey even in the absence of their leadership?
2. Paul insists that the Philippians should “obey”, or “work out their salvation”, not only in Paul’s presence but much more in his absence. Why did Paul have to insist on their obedience in his absence? Why might a group of people be more prone to disobedience when their leadership is away?
3. What does it mean to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”? How do we synthesize that principle with the fact that we are saved by grace, not by works?

Reflective Questions

1. Paul says that God is at work in the Philippians. As we read this verse, we are reminded that God is at work in us. Reflect on how God is at work in you. How has the fact that God is at work in you changed you to become more like the character of Christ? How does an understanding of this reality motivate or empower you to live obediently?
2. Reflect on the following two questions. Take time to sit with these two concepts and allow the Spirit to create a new awareness about your own life.
 - How does gospel-obedience become a light that shines in a dark world?
 - In what way is gospel-obedience an offering up of our lives as sacrifices?
3. Paul uses an unusual phrase in this passage; he says that in a warped and crooked generation...we should shine like stars.. Given the current reality in our country, think about what that would look like in your own life.

Application Questions

1. What does it mean to have ‘gospel-obedience’? How does this differ from other forms of obedience? Obedience and integrity go hand in hand. Is your obedience to the gospel the same whether you are alone or with others?
2. What is Paul asking of the Philippians when he states, “But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.” How can you apply these statements in your own life?
3. What situations cause you to grumble or complain? Paul says we shouldn’t be guilty of these actions. How does grumbling and complaining “dim” our shining as stars?



GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of this statement: The gospel does not produce a frivolous, irresponsible freedom to live as one wants, but a careful, solemn commitment to live in a freedom guided by His grace.
2. Discuss this quote from the sermon, "We work out what has been working in us."
3. Paul exhorts us to do everything without grumbling or complaining. Does this mean that Christians should never disagree? What is the biblical way to handle something that upsets or frustrates you? What is the mature way to handle struggles with leaders who are in authority?
4. We live in a highly individualistic culture. How has this individualism fueled disunity and disobedience? How has a spirit of individualism fueled prejudicial attitudes and behaviors? How can the church, how can you, act with a spirit of reconciliation and redemption in the midst of our highly charged racial struggles?
5. What would it look like for the people of Hershey Free Church to shine like stars in a crooked and perverse generation?
6. Spend significant time in prayer seeking God's face for a revival of his Spirit in the lives of the followers of Christ.

**IF YOU HAVE TIME, PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR WORSHIP
ON JUNE 28 BY READING PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30.**