

Philippians 2:12-18

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 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.

Don't Whine, Shine

Philippians 2:12-18

Todd Chapman - October 22, 2017

Advancing the gospel, through our unity, fueled by humility is what we are about. Paul now tells us to, "Go do it".

We make every effort to live out our faith.

We make every effort to live out our faith knowing it is God who is empowering us.

... to not whine.

... to not whine so that we might be lights. (Advance the Gospel)

...to pursue Jesus wholeheartedly.

... to pursue Jesus wholeheartedly so that Jesus' return will be a great day.

... to pursue Jesus wholeheartedly so that Jesus' return will be a great day for all of us.

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions:

Philippians 2:12-18

What does it mean?

1. How is Paul continuing the big idea from Philippians 1:1-2:11?
2. How might “work out your own salvation” be misinterpreted? How does it fit into this passage?
3. Why does Paul use the words “fear and trembling”? Why might those words be significant?
4. What does Paul mean when he uses the phrase “shine as lights”?
5. What does Paul mean by “so that I didn’t run in vain”? What is he connecting that idea to?
6. What does Paul mean when he talks about pouring himself out as a “drink offering”?
7. Is Paul asking the Philippians to put in effort? How does effort fit into the equation of salvation?
8. What is the “word of life”? Why does Paul want them to cling to it?
9. What is the big idea of Philippians 2:12-17

How does it apply?

1. What would it look like to experience more ‘fear and trembling’? How can we live more consistently with an appreciation of the miracle of our ongoing spiritual transformation (OST)?
2. If effort is such a big deal to Paul, what would it look like for us to put in more effort in our every day experience in this journey of OST?
3. How do I determine the level of effort I’m putting into this journey, or whether I’m simply floating along? Who are the people in my life that I can ask this week to help make me more aware of the blind spots I may have in my OST?
4. What role does going beyond our church walls, into the world, play in this understanding of working out your salvation? What are those areas of ‘the world’ for you?
5. When I encounter difficult circumstances, what emotions would reflect a heart that desires to hold fast to the word of life? What does that holding fast to the word of life look like day to day?