



Philippians 2:12-18 “Working Out Our Salvation”
October 2nd, 2016

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Philippians 2:12-18

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Read verse 12. The verse begins with the word, “Therefore”, which reminds us that this section is the logical outworking of what Paul said in verses 5-11. What is the relationship between v. 5-11 and v.12-18?
2. Paul told the disciples to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”. What is difference between working *for* your salvation and working *out* your salvation? What key words in verses 12-13 make it clear that Paul is not advocating salvation by works? What is he saying in these verses?
3. In verse 14, Paul calls the Philippians to “do all things without grumbling or disputing”. Based on what you know of this letter so far, in what ways might the Philippians be tempted to grumble or complain? In what ways might they be tempted to dispute or argue?
4. What specific reasons does Paul give for not grumbling and disputing in verse 15? How would these sins stand in the way of Paul’s aims for the Philippians, according to these verses?
5. Uncertain of his future, Paul again entertains the possibility of martyrdom when he writes of being “poured out as a drink offering”. In 1:12-23, Paul gave multiple reasons why he could rejoice in his imprisonment and impending execution. Now in 2:17-18 he gives different reasons for rejoicing. What are they and what do they mean?

“Just as wine was poured out in ancient sacrificial ceremonies, Paul says he is happy to pour out his blood for the advancement of the gospel. Just as Jesus emptied himself, Paul is glad to pour out himself for the glory of God.”
-Tony Merida

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ We are all tempted to grumble and complain. How does grueling and complaining damage your witness? How can you obey this command and maintain a joyful attitude in the face of the problems of life?
- ☀ What do Paul’s images for ministry in this passage teach you? He speaks of running and laboring, and ultimately being a sacrificial offering. Why does he use these images?
- ☀ What do you find encouraging about Paul’s mindset? What do you find challenging or nearly impossible?



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.