

GSM

Philippians 2:12-18

I. Philippians 2:12

A. **Therefore-** lit. **so then-** in the day of the revelation of Jesus Christ all will bow to Him and confess that He is Lord

1. Believers are ones who have bowed to Him and have confessed Him as Lord at conversion. As we have received the Lord Jesus, so we are to walk in Him. **Col. 2:6** - We continue as we started.

B. **have always obeyed-** Gr. **hupakouo-** lit. *to hear under- this is to hearken and submit to*

1. In the OT obedience was to external codes and laws

2. In the NT obedience is faith in God's grace- Faith comes from hearkening to the message of grace. We submit to God by believing and acting and speaking what we believe.

a. **Romans 1:5-** we are called to the "**obedience of faith**"-

Romans is the foundation book for the Christian life. Paul lays down the foundation for NT obedience here.

b. **Romans 16:26-** "**obedience of faith**"- Paul starts and ends the book of Romans with the principle of the "obedience of faith"

c. The terms **obey** and **believe** are interchangeable in the NT- 7 examples

1a. **Acts 5:32-** The Holy Spirit is given to those who **obey Him-** We receive the Holy Spirit by faith

2a. **Gal. 3:1-** **Obey not the truth-** We obey the message of the cross by faith

3a. **2 Thess. 1:8-** **obey not the gospel-** We obey the gospel by believing upon Christ

4a. **Hebrews 3:18-19-** **obey and believe are used interchangeably.**

5a. **Hebrews 5:9-** Jesus became the author of eternal salvation when we **obeyed Him-** believed upon Him.

6a. **1 Peter 3:1-** **obey not the Word-** does not believe in Christ- he might be won to Christ.

7a. **1 Peter 4:17-** **obey not the gospel of God-** do not believe the gospel of God.

3. The Christians obedience will occur when we hearken to the Word and believe it. Then we submit to it by speaking and acting on it.

C. **not in my presence, but now much more in my absence-** Paul is not there to baby them. He is not there to help them stand. He is not there to answer all their questions. They will now have to draw from the resources of Christ that were deposited within them all the more.

D. **work out-** Gr. **katergazomai-** pres. tense- *to bring up something buried to the surface.* Work it from the inside to the outside. It was a mining term which meant to bring buried ore to the surface of the earth so it could be utilized.

1. God has placed salvation in us by the new birth. There are rich deposits of Christ within us. **2 Cor. 4:7**

2. We are to mine the rich deposit of salvation deposited in us by God. We are to draw upon it and utilize it for others. This is fruit bearing.

E. **your own salvation-** We each have our **own mine** of salvation in Christ.

1. Too often we poke our noses into someone's life and judge them on their walk before the Lord.

2. We need to attend to our own salvation and work out our own salvation!

3. The Philippians were picking at one another and judging one another. This created disunity in the congregation. This inevitably happens when we lose sight of grace and get into legalism and the flesh. We are to encourage one another and help one another but not judge and criticize one another.

F. **With fear and trembling-** Gr. **phobos** and Gr. **tromos**

1. **reverence** towards God- We show no greater reverence for God than when we believe Him and act on what we believe.

2. **trembling-** this is towards yourself- This comes from knowing what you are capable of doing or not doing without God.

II. Philippians 2:13

A. **God is at work IN us- *We can only work out what God has worked in us.*** God is actively working in us in two ways

1. **to desire His will**- God is working in us to create the desire to do His will-
2. **the power to do His will**- God not only works in us the desire for His will, but the ability to do it.
3. **2 Thess. 1:11 [NASB]- To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,**
 - a. God fills you will every desire for goodness and supplies you with the power to fulfill those desires when you act in faith.
 - b. All we need to be is to be willing to be made willing. Claim this verse! He will not only give you the desire but the power to do it! How great is our God. How great is His amazing grace!
4. In the NT, **God does not demand from us, what He does not first put within us. He puts a demand upon His own grace in us.** God works in us to create the desire for His will and the power to do it by two main means of grace.
 - a. **The Word of God- 1 Thess 2:13-** The Word effectually works in us when we act on our faith. This produces the renewing of the mind which changes our desires.
 - b. God works in us the power to do His will by **the Spirit of God - Eph. 3:20-** The resurrection power of the Holy Spirit works in us when we believe. **Ephesians 1:19**

III. Philippians 2:14

A. **Do- poieo**- pres. tense- *Be doing*

B. **without murmurings**- Gr. **goggusmos**- *secret murmurings*- This means to grumble inwardly and quietly. This includes unhappy whisperings behind someone's back. Many think it is ok to have a bad attitude if you just don't get real vocal about it. Your heart attitude shouts to God and it will come out in your actions which also shout.

C. **disputings**- Gr. **dialogismos**- *debates or arguments*- This is voicing your displeasure loudly.

D. These two sins are seen often towards leadership when decisions are made that are not agreed with. This towards God our ultimate leader and then to earthly leaders that represent Him.

E. You can disagree without being disagreeable and having a nasty attitude. We need to check our bad attitudes at the cross and pick up the resurrected attitude of Christ!

F. This verse is not one many pin up to be reminded of. Too bad.

IV. Philippians 2:15

A. **that you may be**- Lit. *may become*- Gr. **ginomai**

B. **blameless**- Gr. **amemptos**- *without valid blame or censure*

C. **harmless**- Gr. **akeraios**- *unmixed- pure*

D. **sons of God**- Gr. **teknon**- *children of God*

E. **without rebuke**- Gr. **amomos**- *found without valid fault*- From the Greek god Momus. He was the ultimate fault finder. He found fault with everything and everyone and every circumstance. We are to live in such a way that even old Momus could not find fault with us!

F. **midst of a crooked**- Gr. **skolios**- *we get the word scoliosis from this- curvature or bent*. We live in the middle of a bent and twisted generation

G. **perverse**- Gr. **diastrepho**- *fully distorted*

H. **nation**- Gr. **genea**- *generation*

I. **among whom** -Lit. *in whom*

J. **shine as lights**- Lit. *shine as luminaries*- sun, moon, stars- The faintest star can be seen in the dark.

K. What makes us shine in the darkness?

1. We do all things without murmuring and disputing and arguing!
vs. 14

2. We live in a distorted and twisted world that is totally negative. God is wholly positive. It is so normal for people to grumble, grip, back bite, gossip, and rebel against all authority they do not agree with and in circumstances that are not according to their liking.

3. We shine as bright lights when we remain positive in the midst of this. We shine as lights when we are positive in response to their negativity.

4. We will be seen as the children of God when we have right and righteous attitudes in the midst of a generation that has twisted ones! We will get two reactions when we live out vs. 14- we will be persecuted and/or we will be admired, which will attract attention to God. They will seek why we are so different than others.

5. If you will live with a positive attitude you will stand out like a healed thumb!

L. **James 3:2**- We are a perfect man if we can control our tongue. If we can control our tongue it means that we have proper thinking and believing.

V. Philippians 2:16

A. **Holding forth**- Lit. *holding up*- This is the picture of a lamp stand that holds a lit light. We are the lamp stand. Christ is the light that shines from us. **Mark 4:21**- Our light is not to be covered by the basket or bed- **basket** was a grain basket workers used in the fields- this represents legalistic works which hid the light of grace; **bed**- represents inactivity and laziness. Many claim to have faith but add no works of faith to let release it. **Our good works should come from the light [Christ] within us and through faith.**

B. **word of life**- Lit. *message of life*

C. **rejoice in the day of Christ**- This is at the coming of Jesus for the church and the subsequent judgment seat of Christ

C. **run and labored in vain**

1. **Gal. 2:2**- Paul submitted the gospel of grace to other church leaders lest he had **run in vain**.
2. **Gal. 4:11**- Paul was concerned that he **labored in vain** because they were abandoning the gospel of grace.
3. If the Philippians were not living out the grace of God and bearing the fruit of grace then he considered he had run and labored in vain.

VI. Philippians 2:17

A. **Be offered**- Gr. **spendo**- *being poured out as a drink offering*

B. **upon the sacrifice**- pouring a drink offering upon the sacrifice was the finishing touch on a sacrifice. Paul saw his martyrdom was just the finishing touch upon their sacrifice of their faith. The sacrifice was the main element and the drink offering was just a minor part. Paul considered himself as minor significance. The drink offering was the first thing consumed into a mist, when the fire hit the sacrifice. Paul was serving as a priest regarding their faith towards God. He was working to promote it and establish it. This work he pictures as a drink offering poured on a sacrifice.

C. **of your faith**- our faith in the finished work of Christ brings forth the soothing aroma of His Son before Him.

D. **Sacrifices in the NT**- These all are called a sacrifice because they all point to and reflect the sacrifice of Christ Himself. These remind the Father of the sacrifice of His Son- It is a soothing aroma

1. **faith**- this verse

2. **praise**- for the finished work of Christ- **Hebrews 13:15**

3. **body**- We reckon we died with Christ and was risen with Him- **Romans 12:1**

4. **financial offering**- We give our treasure and heart- God have His in Christ.- **Philippians 4:18**

5. In these sacrifices we rely on and focus on the only true and most important sacrifice which is of Christ Himself.

E. Paul uses himself as the third example in this chapter of humility and service of others. He saw himself playing a very small role. He put the great importance upon the faith of the Philippians.

VII. **Philippians 2:18**

A. **For the same reason your rejoice with me**

1. The Philippians in turn are to see themselves as mere servants and helpers of Paul and are drink offerings upon His sacrifice of faith. Their support of Him is a drink offering upon his sacrifice of faith.

B. This was a subtle way of getting across to the congregation that we should serve one another and see others as having the higher place of rank and importance. We see ourselves playing the minor role. Too many people are starring in their own play!

C. Some people are so egotistical that they want to be the bride in every wedding the corpse in every funeral! They want all the attention!

D. We are to serve one another in order to promote people's faith. We need to take the minor role. Jesus is the leading man! We are servants of all.