

Philippians 2:12-18
For the week of 11/1/26

Reflection

1. What were some of the insights for you from Sunday's sermon?

Read verses 12-13

¹²Therefore, 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, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹

Note how the beginning of verse 12 echoes Paul's heart for the Philippians in chapter 1, verse 8.

2. What does Paul mean when he writes **“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure”**?²

3. How does this command of Paul's go along with the unity of the church?

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Php 2:12–13.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Php 2:12–13.

4. Compare these verses to 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 where Paul first preached the Gospel in Corinth.

A little something from a commentary...

Paul's way of combining the fear and love of the Lord reflects both his Jewish roots and his experience of Christ. The fear of the Lord in the worship experience of Israel did not mean the terror and dread of God alone but unites the sense of awe and reverence with love and trust.³

Read verses 14-15

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,⁴

5. How does Paul's command to the church about their attitude of service impact non-believers? (See also Matthew 5:16)

Application

6. How is the testimony of your attitude shown to those around you?

Read verse 16

³ G. Walter Hansen, [*The Letter to the Philippians*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009), 176.

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Php 2:14–15.

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.⁵

7. How does Paul's direction of *holding fast to the word of life* help the church to be *blameless and innocent*?

Application

8. How well are you holding fast to the word of life?

Read verses 17-18

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. ⁶

9. How do these verses compliment what Paul said in chapter 1 verses 29-30?

10. How do you interpret this commentator's statement about this section of scripture?

Paul began this section of specific ethical instructions with a negative prohibition against complaining: Do everything without grumbling or arguing (2:14). He now ends on a positive note by encouraging his friends to rejoice with him in all

⁵ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Php 2:16.

⁶ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Php 2:17–18.

aspects of their partnership together in Christ. Even in the midst of suffering, sacrifice, and service, joy is a distinguishing mark of partners in Christ.⁷

⁷ G. Walter Hansen, [*The Letter to the Philippians*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009), 191.