

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Where in your life do you enjoy working hard toward a goal? What area of your life will you expend great energy to reach your objective? Is it enjoyable?
2. In what areas of life are you most tempted to grumble or complain?

DIG DEEPER

Read Philippians 2:12-13

WORK OUT YOUR OBEDIENCE WITH JESUS

1. What is the ever so important first word in verse 12? _____
What is it “there for?” Or in other words, what is the preceding thought that is to influence or motivate our obedience in the next verses?
2. Philippians 2:12-13 says “*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.*”
 - Don’t be confused by the word ‘salvation’. We tend to think of the act of justification alone, whereas Scripture uses the word for salvation in 3 different tenses referring to:
 - PAST - Justification: *We have been saved* from the penalty of sin. We are declared innocent and made right with God. This is instantaneous.
 - PRESENT - Sanctification: *We are being saved* from the power of sin. “The ongoing transformation from one degree of glory to the next, by the Holy Spirit, making us more and more like Jesus.” This is a process that we are involved in.
 - FUTURE - Glorification: *We will be saved* from the presence of sin and will be conformed to the image of Christ with a resurrected body, sharing in His glory when we see Him face to face at His return. This is instantaneous.
 - The present tense is being used in this verse referring to the **sanctification process**.
 - We see in this verse that the sanctification process requires two things. Where do you see the following in the text:
 - God’s sovereignty:
 - Human responsibility:
3. What do you think it means to work out your salvation with fear and trembling? How does the holy presence of God compel you to pursue a life of holiness?
4. In Philippians 2:12-13 who is at work first? How does this bring comfort to your life as a Christian?

Read Philippians 2:14-17

SHINE IN OBEDIENCE FOR JESUS

5. Two aspects of how we press on towards our sanctification are given in verse 14. We are commanded to do everything without _____ and _____.

6. The purpose of this command is so that we will become _____ and _____.
7. Grumbling is something we might downplay as 'not too bad'. Let's look at what Scripture has to say. Read 1 Corinthians 10:9-11 & Numbers 16. What was the cause of grumbling? What was the result?
8. There is a contrast between what the unbelieving generation looks like compared to believers in Christ. What is the imagery used:

For the unbelieving generation:

For believers being sanctified by the Word:

9. The Greek word in verse 16 for 'holding fast' is 'epecho'. This word carries with it the idea of not only *holding fast to* but also *holding forth*.

How do we hold fast to the word of life?

How do we hold out the word of life for others?

10. Paul gives the command in verse 14. He expects obedience. He is adamant about believers living out the implications of their faith, clinging to the Word and witnessing to the gospel, in order that he may boast in the Day of Christ that his work was not in vain. Paul knows that Jesus must be not only our **Saviour** but also our **Lord**. If we lead people to know Jesus as their Saviour but never disciple them to obey Him as their Lord, our work will be in vain. Paul gives his life wholly to the task of leading people to Christ AND discipling them in the faith.

What is the imagery that Paul uses of his ministry in verse 17?

11. How does Paul feel about this ministry of being poured out for others? How does this challenge or encourage you?

BRING IT HOME

12. What particular areas of your life will you ask the Lord to work in you, to grow in godliness? What effort are you putting into growing spiritually?
13. What influence do you have on the spiritual health of your church or Christian friends? How can you encourage growth in that group?
14. Is silent resentment okay as long as we don't complain or argue? Why or why not? How can a person complain without words?
15. How can you shine as a light and hold out the word of life this coming week?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that we would press on toward holiness in our lives knowing that God is producing the desire, energy, and ability to grow in godliness.
- Pray that we would put to death complaining and disputing for our own growth and for our witness to the world.
- Pray that we would joyfully pour ourselves out for the sake of others.