



Work Out What God Has Worked In

Philippians 2:12-17

Series: Philippians

Date: 07.13 – 07.14.19

SMALL GROUPS

We need to understand that God WANTS us to OBEY (2:12-13)

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.

Can you remember what this passage flows off the end of? How does 2:5-11 perhaps change your initial response to a statement like this?

We need to understand WHY God WANTS us to OBEY (2:13)

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

It's clear that we don't work *for* our salvation but work *out* the salvation we've been given. How can you bring that salvation to bear in the world now—at home, work, or anywhere else?

We need to understand WHAT our total OBEDIENCE PRODUCES (2:14-16)

1. Spiritual MATURITY (v.14)

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing...

2. Purity that leads to BLAMELESSNESS (v.15a)

¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation

3. An effective WITNESS (v.15b)

...among whom you shine as lights in the world...

4. A STEADFAST resolve (v.16a)

...¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life...

5. A sense of ACCOMPLISHMENT and MUTUAL JOY (v.16b-17)

...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.

If ongoing sanctification (becoming holy and more like Jesus) is a partnership between God and us, what behavior or attitude do you need to intentionally work on? How can your group partner with you to help or keep accountable?

Which of these 5 most speaks to you? Write it here: _____

Does it grab you with a sense of desire (I want that) or conviction (I must change here)? What is the Holy Spirit saying about it? Is there something you need to stop or start doing?

Bottomline: Obedience to God, in the face of opposition, leads to purity of life, effective witness in the world, and a blessing to our leaders.

For those not yet living a Jesus-centered life

- 1. BEGIN your obedience by having a CHANGE of HEART toward the gospel about Jesus.

One key way we converse with God and join in His sanctifying work is through prayer. Can you spend concerted time praying with and for one another—not for circumstantial things, but to partner with God in sanctifying us? Pray for one another's transformation.

For those already living a Jesus-centered life

- 2. PARTNER with God in his SANCTIFYING work in this community.
- 3. Stop ALL grumbling and disputing.
- 4. SHINE as LIGHTS as you live in this crooked and twisted generation

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN READING SCRIPTURE

- 1. Is there a command to obey?
- 2. Is there a sin to avoid?
- 3. Is there a promise to believe?
- 4. Is there an example I need to follow?
- 5. What new truth about God have I seen?
- 6. What's repeated?

So...

What do I need to surrender?

What do I need to step into?

What do I need to steward?

What do I need to share? (either for my own accountability or to expand the Kingdom into others' lives?)