

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (FOR JUNE 20, 2021) For Community Groups or Personal Study

On this third Sunday in June, we continue in our study of Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. Previously, we learned of Paul's teaching about being Confident in Christ, Living in Christ, and this week being Obedient in Christ.

Philippi was certainly one of Paul's favorite churches. He founded the church there about twelve or thirteen years earlier. Paul is now in prison and an old friend, Epaphroditus, arrives bearing another gift from the church. But Epaphroditus falls ill and recovers. This affords Paul an opportunity to send along a letter when Epaphroditus returns to Philippi.

In today's passage, Paul urged the Philippians to do everything without grumbling or complaining. He said they should remain cheerful until the day of the Lord arrived. This was so they could remain blameless.

The letter seeks to spur Christians to humble obedience and to press forward toward maturity in Christ.

PHILIPPIANS - IN CHRIST SERMON PASSAGE: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”^[a] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

¹⁹I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²²But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things

go with me. ²⁴And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. ²⁵But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, ³⁰because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.”

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. In light of vs 12-14, what does it mean to "work out your salvation"?
2. What part is up to God? What part is up to you?
3. What makes God's people shine like stars?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. As a star, is your fellowship a "twinkle, twinkle" ? A nova? Burned out? Why?
5. How can you help it burn brightly?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. If you had to turn over your business or life's belongings to someone else outside the family, who would you choose?
7. Who are models of humility and service you can look up to today, as Paul looks to Timothy and Epaphroditus?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to give you confidence that He loves you and He will never leave you. Give thanks to God for answering your prayers.