

“JOYFUL IN OBEDIENCE”
PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

Because God is working in us, let us work out our salvation to shine as witnesses in a dark world

After planting the church in Philippi during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:11-40), Paul now writes to them ten years later from Roman imprisonment. Amazingly, he is not discouraged but joyful! In fact, the word “joy” appears fourteen times in these four short chapters. *In this passage, Paul applies the humility of Christ (vv. 1-11) to the Philippian church (vv. 12-18). In doing so, Paul instructs them, and the church today, to see that because God is working in us, we should work out our salvation with the fear of the LORD (vv. 12-13), to shine as lights in a dark world (vv. 14-16), by rejoicing in the gospel (vv. 17-18).*

APPLYING THE WORD

Read Philippians 2:12-18 aloud and pray that the Lord will apply this passage to your group.

Introductory Question: Growing up as a child, what were some things that caused you to be afraid?

Working Out Our Salvation with Fear (vv. 12-13)

- How does the holiness of God move you to walk in holiness and obedience (v. 12)?
- How does it strengthen your joy knowing that God is joyfully at work in you (v. 13)?

Shining as Lights in a Dark World (vv. 14-16)

- Why is grumbling so destructive to our witness and where do you need to grow in contentment (vv. 14-15)?
- Where is God calling you to “hold fast” to the Word of life in this season (v. 16)?

Rejoicing Together Until the End (vv. 17-18)

- How does Paul’s joyful and sacrificial spirit encourage you and challenge you personally (v. 17)?
- As a group, in what ways can we, and should we, share the joy of the gospel with one another (vv. 17-18)?

PRAYING THE WORD

Philippians 2:12-18 prompts us to pray for gospel awareness to grow as witnesses. As you pray this passage, consider asking someone to pray that we would be aware of our need to grow in sanctification because God is graciously working in us (vv. 12-13). Ask someone else to pray for awareness for where we need to uproot grumbling in order to be a faithful witness today (vv. 14-15). Finally, ask someone to pray for awareness of opportunities to share the joy of the gospel (vv. 16-18).

STAYING IN THE STORY

Day 1	The wisdom of walking in the fear of the LORD (vv. 12-13; Proverbs 9:1-12)
Day 2	The destruction of a grumbling people (vv. 14-15; Exodus 15:22-17)
Day 3	Praying to shine as gospel lights in a dark world (v. 15-16; Psalm 67)
Day 4	Remaining joyfully faithful to the end (vv. 16-18; 2 Timothy 4:1-8)
Day 5	Following the model of joyful humility in others (vv. 12-18; Philippians 2:19-30)