

What Matters Most

LISTENING

Philippians 2:12-18

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.

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, ¹⁶ 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. 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.

Philippians 2:12-18

Outline:

Philippians 2:12a : “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed (**listened**) . . .”

1a) Live out your salvation together (12b)

Key word: obedience

“in your relationships with one another live out the salvation God has brought to you.” *IVP Commentary, Philippians(104)*

1b) Live out God’s “Good Pleasure” together (13)

“work at it as God works His will among you” (Fee)

2) Resist Grumbling and Complaining (14)

3) Reflect your true identity in Christ (15-16a)

- Be Blameless - pursue righteous conduct (15a)
- Be Innocent - pursue a pure heart (15a)
- Live as children of God without blemish (15b)
- Shine as Lights in the World (15c)
- Hold Fast to the Word of Life (16a)

4) Focus on the Goal

Finishing well together (Joy) (16b-18)

Discussion Questions:

- How can you tell if someone is listening? From what Paul wrote, were the people in the church listening? Are you good at listening? Why or why not?
- What is a key discipline in living out our salvation together? When it comes to obedience is there strength in holding each other accountable? Who are you accountable too?
- What do you find yourself complaining about? Has complaining become a habit? What is the danger of always complaining? How can we extinguish our complaining spirit? Go to bible.org and read about three ways to get rid of a complaining disposition. Set a goal this week to work on this issue in your life.
- In Phil. 2:15-16, Paul shares five challenges for the believers in Philippi. Read through the list and discuss your greatest weakness and strength.
- What does finishing well in life look like for you?