

Philippians 2:12-18

“Therefore, 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, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as 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. But 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. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.”

Last Week:

- Let this attitude (mindset) be in you
- Humility
 - not grasping what I have or deserve
- Obedience
 - to the will of the Father
- Exalted By God
 - lifts up the humble
 - position given Christ
- therefore

1. Keep On

- 'as you have always obeyed.....'

- a) keep on in my absence – not just while I am here

- Wiersbe – “too many Christians obey God due to pressure on the outside and not power on the inside”

- b) 'work out your salvation'

- not work for your salvation, already called them saints, commended their faith, communicated his joy with them

- verb – work to full completion

- mining – finding all that is valuable, exhausting the resource

- farming – seek the highest yield, getting the crop that is planted, tended and grows

c) fear and trembling

- keeping perspective on who God is
- knowing we easily become deceived and distracted
- pursuing the transformation to the heart of God

d) God is doing this

- indwelling person of the Holy Spirit
- changes happening in you by God's will and work that enable:
 - transformed heart – not my will but yours
 - empowered obedience – living as we ought
 - faithful to complete what He has started

2. Keep a Guard Up

- 'do everything without – not just the church stuff, work stuff or everyday life stuff – everything

- challenges the pattern world promotes

a) Grumbling & Arguing

- scholars – correlation between Israel and Church

- light unto the nations – light unto the world

- passage clear – this is important to your mission

- when we grumble and argue – saying your provision is not enough, your intentions are unjust, your grace is not sufficient!

- overcoming this demands a trust in God that is enough

- God is clear:
 - will provide for our every need
 - intentions towards us for our very best
 - grace for every situation always sufficient

b) 'so that you may become.....'

- blameless – nothing in life that causes the finger of accusation to be pointed at us
- your life is to be a living testimony to who God is

c) 'pure', 'unmixed' – term used to describe wine that was not watered down

- metal without alloy – heart and motives God sees

d) Children of God clearly seen

- unmistakably identifiable – standing apart
- living upright in a warped and crooked world

3. Keep Your Light Fueled

a) ‘shine like stars among them’

- when it’s dark – light draws
- evident and pointing the way in living our lives

b) ‘as you hold firmly to the word’

- ‘hold your position, hold your gaze’, Tim 4:16 – ‘keep a close watch on’
- essential to be in the word and trusting it

- to hold firmly – believe it, trust it, claim it, live by it

- Rom. 10:17 ***“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”***

- John 17:16-18 ***“They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”***

- Psalm 1:2-3 ***“but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.”***

4. Keep Everything In Perspective

- 'boast on the day of Christ ... not in vain'
- Christ is the ultimate judge – knows motives, things done in secret, response to Spirit leading – Paul says – your hearts seeking God, changing you, humble obedience – what matters
- 'poured out like a drink offering' – Numbers 15:1-10
 - good wine spilled on ground – poured out in seeming waste
 - sacrifice and service of your faith
 - worth it all to see you know and love Jesus

So What

1. Keep On growing

- not just when others are looking or leading
- make your maximum impact for God by:
 - being faithful to His word and obedient in choices
 - regularly reminded of who God is and what He asks
 - allowing God to work in and through us by Spirit

2. Keep Your Guard Up

- have you become a complainer or grumbler - repent
- keep an eye on what God desires for your character, remove roadblocks and allow him to shape you

3. How Brightly Are You Shining

- Is it evident what you believe, your love for others, character that reflects God?
- if not – are you in the Word? Are you grasping firmly (trusting it) and living that way?

4. Keep it all In Perspective of Eternity

- Heb. 9:27 – appointed to die and face God
- Phil 2 – every knee bow, every tongue confess
- are you willing for God to ‘pour you out’ so others may know and love Him?