

Series: Philippians: That We May Know Him V

Text: Philippians 2:12-18

HI: Work out what God is working in you.

Title: *Under New Ownership*

Hook: Under new ownership → Back to basics

Date: 10.8.23

Purpose: To flesh out for God's people how God's work of salvation transforms our lives on a practical level.

FCF: Like the Philippians, we struggle to externalize our identity as God's children. God's grace meets us here, assuring us that he is working his will in us and empowering us to live out that reality.

COR: Selflessness, sacrifice, and gratitude are undeniably attractive virtues. In Christ we see the pinnacle of these ethics, and in those he saves we should see the clearest reflection of this reality.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: The glory of Christ is not a theory, it's a reality. We see this glory reflected in a people he is saving, who exemplify his humility, obedience to God, and joyful sacrifice. Christ's sacrificial service empowers us to live what he has given us.

Apologetic: The virtues of humility, gratitude, and sacrifice are lauded in our world, though not often exemplified. Why are these good things? It is hard to deny that humility is better than arrogance, that gratitude is superior to grumbling, and that sacrifice is more powerful than selfishness. But why? These realities reveal that there is something in us as human beings—who admittedly don't naturally exemplify these virtues—that longs to reflect a better reality than we naturally know. The Bible tells us that this is the image of God within us. And when we see that image in flesh his name is Jesus. He didn't simply reflect these virtues to be an example for us, but to make a way, through him, for us to experience life in God. His sacrifice for us provides the way. He was poured out so that we could be made new. He died so that we could live. And the same power that brought Jesus back from the grave makes us alive in him.

Text Tone: Instruction

Preaching Voice: Priestly (multiple imperatives)

Form: Deductive

Call to Worship: Philippians 1:2

Benediction: Philippians 4:7

Outline:

I. God empowers us to obey him. (12-15)

A. God's work in us transforms our hearts. (13)

B. Our work for God reflects his heart. (12)

C. Your identity should influence your attitude. (14-15a)

D. Our calling should inform our commitment. (15b-16a)

II. The gospel brings us joy in being spent. (16-18)

A. We shine as lights in the world by holding fast to the gospel. (16a)

B. Your perspective drives your purpose. (16b)

C. There is great joy in being spent. (17-18)

Main Idea:

Subject: How should the believer live in response to God's work in salvation?

Complement: By working it out in their lives.

Exegetical Idea: Believers should respond to God's work in salvation by working it out in their lives.

Theological Idea: Christians should live in obedience to God as a response to God's work of salvation in their lives.

Homiletical Idea: Work out what God is working in you.

Introduction:

READ Philippians 2:12-18

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. ¹⁴ 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.

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I. God empowers us to obey him. (12-15)

Spurgeon: “All true obedience springs from saving faith, and he was therefore addressing those who, through faith in Christ, had been rendered obedient to the gospel commands.”

Grumbling: Utterance made in a low tone of voice, “behind-the-scenes-talk”

Luke 9:46: “An argument arose among them about who was the greatest”

Crooked and twisted generation = “morally warped and spiritually perverted”

John 1:4-5 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

RE-READ Philippians 2:16-18

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.

II. The gospel brings us joy in being spent. (16-18)

Word of life = Gospel

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Romans 12:1-2: I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20