

## *Lesson 6*, PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

Paul has just finished speaking about the glory of Jesus reached through his humble, servant heart. He even stated that Christians should have this same attitude. In the next part of Philippians 2 he gives us guidelines on how to achieve this and ends with two examples of men who had accomplished the “attitude of Christ” in their lives. Paul focuses on the “new creation” that people become when they come to faith in Jesus Christ. It is not just life as usual; it is a new and exciting existence.

1. Read verses 12-13. In some translations of the Bible these verses begin with “therefore” (or “after all”) which means we need to see what they are there for. Since Paul has just described the character of Jesus, he is focusing back to his words and shows how they affect his followers. Define the word “obey”. How important is obedience to our physical life? To our emotional life? To our spiritual life? How do we reconcile obedience and individual freedom?
2. Verse 13 can be confusing. Our salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ and that alone. Paul is not talking about that. What do you think he means by this verse? See Colossians 4:12, Hebrews 5:11-14, James 1:2-5.
3. Read verses 14-18. What are some stumbling blocks that keep us from being the light we are called to be? What do you think is the emotion behind these blocks?
4. Paul describes two different types of people in verses 14 and 15. What are they? Compare this to Psalm 1.
5. Read the rest of Philippians 2. Describe the characteristics of Timothy and Epaphroditus. Read 1 Timothy 1:18-19; 4:11-16; 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:6,7 for more information.

*Application:* In light of the example of Jesus, Christians are to stand on their own two feet (work out your salvation), with a sense of human frailty (fear and trembling), but knowing that God is behind us and in control. Write down times when you were having trials and how you felt God working through you. How did that time strengthen your faith?

*Prayer:* God of all compassion and mercy, strengthen our feeble hands and shaking knees so we can stand firm during the ups and downs of life. May we live into the words of Jesus Christ when he said, “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Thank you that You give us the wisdom, power and courage to live into your will. Amen.



