

## Team Work Makes the Dream Work

### Philippians 2:12-30

The gospel transforms us by the power of the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Christ.

A gospel of grace that omits obedience is not biblical truth.  
We can not omit self-sacrificing love.  
Jesus centered faith will be a faith that is self-sacrificing.

Is Christ reflected in our attitudes and relationships?

#### vs. 12-13

Individually, work out our common salvation in our life together.  
Work out -> accomplish / carry out

Obedience -> you have lived out your salvation that has been given to you through Jesus Christ.

In the church, how have you developed long term friendship and deep affection for one another?

The gospel is not to be taken casually or lightly.  
It is a matter of great seriousness (fear & trembling).

To will and to work (not self-generated)

Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

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. **2** 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.

#### vs. 14-15,

Without	grumbling or disputing.
That you may be	blameless and innocent.

The way our family (the church) functions matters.

If the world is fallen and twisted how is our behavior different?

Does it offer a vibrant contrast?

How are our attitudes toward one another different (within the church)?

Is Jesus lord? If so, we are changed and our attitudes and actions are radically different than a fallen and twisted world.

-> If our Lord has told us to go and make disciples, then internal grumbling and disputing (among God's people) is completely counterproductive.

Deuteronomy 32

32:5 They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.

32:45-46 And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, **46** he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law.

You shine as lights in the world.  
(Not just in our winning, but in our losing as well!)

Our ideology is obsessed with winning.

But what if we don't and in the middle of our losing we are still filled with joy.

Politics / culture wars / etc...

- The church in China continues to grow.
- The church in Hong Kong remains steadfast.
- The church in Iran.
- The church in Afghanistan.

**vs. 16**, Eschatology -> We are a people with an assured HOPE!

Daniel 12:1-4 "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. **2** And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. **3** And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. **4** But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

We work hard because we understand the treasure that is God himself.

He is our reward.

He is our prize at the end of the race.

**vs. 17-18**, As far as the empire is concerned, I'm losing and they are winning.

Remember Habakkuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree should not blossom,

nor fruit be on the vines,

the produce of the olive fail

and the fields yield no food,

the flock be cut off from the fold

and there be no herd in the stalls,

18

yet I will rejoice in the Lord;

I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

This is Paul's concern.

Philippians 1:25, for your progress and joy in the faith.

Is this our concern?

Do I live my life for your progress and your joy in the faith?

Does Second Mile exist for your progress and your joy in the faith?

Do I engage in my vocation for your progress and your joy in the faith?

Are my resources for your progress and your joy in the faith?

Philippians 1:26, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus,

Encouragement and Connection

**vs. 19-24**, Paul is unable to go to Philippi, so he will send Timothy.

- Timothy is like a son to Paul. He feels and thinks like Paul.
- Like Paul, he deeply cares for the Philippians.
- He is willing to travel a long and difficult distance to help and care for the church.
- This is in contrast to others who aren't willing (selfish).

**vs. 25-30**, Epaphroditus - your messenger (carrier of the letter)

Paul is quick to speak highly of Epaphroditus and to relieve any worry the church might have.

- He has been ill (very ill, near to death).

- He is home sick.
- He is absolutely trustworthy (he has delivered your financial gift).
- He has been a deep encouragement to me and I know he will be a deep encouragement to you.
- The work of the ministry has been difficult for him, but he has persevered.

Even in Epaphroditus' holy work, he endured suffering.

Paul gives us two examples in Timothy and in Epaphroditus of self-sacrifice. Both living and displaying the mind of Christ.