

# Dear Church

## 7 – This is How We Do It

Philippians 2:12-30 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> 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, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> holding fast to the word of life, so that the in day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. <sup>21</sup> For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know Timothy's<sup>[d]</sup> proven worth, how as a son<sup>[e]</sup> with a father he has served with me in the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, <sup>24</sup> and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

<sup>25</sup> I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, <sup>26</sup> for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup> So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, <sup>30</sup> for he nearly died<sup>[f]</sup> for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

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“Our church is on mission to be the visible image of Christ, inviting people into community and a relationship with Jesus” – *(the revised mission statement of mpbc).*

The text this morning defines success in the overall mission of Christ.

**Philippians 2:12b-13** “*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*”

In the last 11 verses of this passage, Paul shares a personal note about two servants, Timothy and Epaphroditus. These two are described as genuine servants – **faithfully, and successfully working out their calling.**

(Checkout the underlined sections of our text above – verses 19-30.)

Now, let’s explore how God’s people are challenged to do service in our current time through the message of **Philippians 2:14-18:**

### Work it out –

*<sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

[God himself produces in believers both the desire to live righteously and the effective energy to do so.]

*<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup>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, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.*

### THIS IS HOW WE DO IT...

# Dear Church

## 1. Desire God's Blessing in all You Do!

### No grumbling, no disputing –

Matthew 5:9 (NLT) *“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”*

- a. **Demonstrating a** blameless and innocent – **COUNTER CULTURAL** - lifestyle compared to the dark world we live in.

1 John 3:9-10 (NLT) <sup>9</sup>*“Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them...* <sup>10</sup>*So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil.”*

- 1. If you live counter to our worldly culture you will shine as lights – the Light of Christ Jesus in you will shine, and,
- 2. You will be Shining against the dark backdrop of a wayward world  
*(this crooked and twisted age that we live in)*

## 2. Depend upon His Life-giving Word - the guidance of God's promises

<sup>16</sup>*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”.*

- a. **Gripping the Word of God** validates the ministry of the saints.
- b. **Holding tight to God's Word** is proof of God's calling on all of us in ministry or service – that the seeds planted will demonstrate a harvest for God.

### 1. God's Word is Powerful and Effective

Isaiah 40:21 (NLT) *“The grass withers and the flowers fade, but **the word of our God stands forever.**”*

Acts 6:7 (NLT) *“And the word of God continued to*

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*increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”*

**Acts 12:24** (NLT) *“...the word of God continued to be spread, and there were many new believers.”*

### 3. Be glad and be joyous in all things related to serving God.

*<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.*

- a. *“poured out as a drink offering”* - Jewish religious practice included the use of wine poured out ceremonially in connection with certain sacrifices (**Numbers 15:1-10**).
- b. Paul **rejoiced** in his present “offering” or sacrifice for the faith of the Philippians – *“I am glad and rejoice WITH you all”*.
  1. He was willing to lay down his life, and the prospect of being with Christ, and
  2. He was filled with joy knowing that his ministry with the **Philippians was successful** – related to their personal faith being established and growing...
  3. He also rejoiced with the Philippians as he contemplated his connection to their faith. He planted and nourished their faith, so **their victories were his victories too**.

### This is how we do it –

- We accept the gift of the Light of the World, Jesus our Lord and Savior.
- We depend and trust in the life-changing power of God’s Good News, the Word of God.
- We joyfully serve regardless of any challenges that come our way!