

**EQUIP**

# BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE DARK SKY

➤ **PHIL. 2:12-18**

**EQUIP**

# **THEME**

God enjoys empowering Christians to pursue sanctification with humility and joy.

# Philippians 2:12-18

**12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;**

**13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**

**14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;**

**15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,**

**16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.**

**17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.**

**18 You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.**

**1ST CHARACTERISTIC:  
SANCTIFICATION IS PURSUED  
JOINTLY**

*12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;*

*13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

# Gerlad Hawthorne

“The verb Paul uses here, “obey,” contains within it the twin ideas of hearing —especially the divine word as proclaimed—and submitting to that word, akin to the Hebrew verb šāma‘, to “hear and obey,” i.e., give attention to.”

# Moises Silva

“The biblical concept of salvation is not restricted to justification; more commonly what is in view includes God’s redemptive work in its totality. Thus, while in a very important sense we have already been saved (Eph. 2:5, 8; Titus 3:5), in another sense we are yet to be saved (Rom. 5:9–10; 1 Cor. 3:15; 5:5; 2 Tim. 4:18).”

# Moises Silva

“The text itself, by its very juxtaposition of those two emphases (*we work because God works*), cries out loudly against any such attempts at resolution. And the point here is not merely that both the human and the divine are stressed, but that in one and the same passage we have what is perhaps the strongest biblical expression of each element.”

## **2ND CHARACTERISTIC: SANCTIFICATION PROVES OUR REDEMPTION**

***14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;***

***15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,***

***16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.***



## **3RD CHARACTERISTIC: SANCTIFICATION PRODUCES JOY**

*17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.*

*18 You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.*

# G. Walter Hansen

“In the Jewish sacrificial ritual, the drink offering was poured out as an additional sacrifice to the burnt offerings. The drink offering completes the main offering of a burnt sacrifice on the altar and makes it pleasing to God. The possibility of being poured out like a drink offering makes Paul rejoice because his sacrifice would be in addition to and a completion of the sacrifice he is urging believers to make as an expression of their faith. Paul is not calling for a sacrifice on the part of others that he is unwilling to make himself.”

God enjoys empowering Christians to pursue sanctification with humility and joy.

# DISCUSSION

## ➤ PURSUE

How have you seen God empowering you to hear and submit to His word?

## ➤ HUMILITY

When are you most tempted to grumble or dispute? (Think Put Off)

How will you put your hand to the plow to root out that sin? (Think Put On)

## ➤ JOY

Someone (please) volunteer to pray for your group that God will empower you all to pursue sanctification this week, resulting in humility to work and enough joy to share with others!