

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

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.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. This week's passage starts with the conjunctive adverb "therefore". So, what is the "therefore" there for? In other words, what is the logical connection between this passage and the previous section?
2. Paul commands the Philippian church to be obedient even in his absence. What does this reveal about the kind of obedience Paul is talking about? Why is it so important for them to be obedient when Paul's not around?
3. What is the difference between "working out" our salvation and "working for" our salvation?
4. What kind of things do Christians tend to emphasize when it comes to being distinct in a crooked and twisted generation? What does Paul emphasize in this passage when it comes to our distinction as Christians?
5. According to 1 Peter 4:8-11, why do we love and serve others? How can our attitude reflect the character of Jesus as we love and serve others (See Philippians 2:5-11)?