



“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:12-13)

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing...” (Philippians 2:14)

What does this look like for us now?

Initiatives:

- Engaging young adults
- Leadership development
- Digital platforms
- Discipleship pathway

“so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life...” (Philippians 2:15-16)

Prayer Focus

Prayer continues to be an important rhythm in our individual and corporate lives. We want to continue that practice. As a church family, let's continue to pray scripture for ourselves, our families, and the local and global Hershey Free Church family.

Praying Scripture

The prayer focus for this week is Philippians 2:12-13

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

Below is an example of how to pray the passage.

Dear Father, Help me to obey your word, not only when I'm with other followers of Jesus, but even more when I am alone and there is not one present but me. Help me work out my salvation with courage and discernment.

Give me the wisdom to see where I need to surrender my will to yours and remind me that my salvation is a work of grace that I did nothing to earn. I praise you that you continue to work in me so that I can live out the purposes you have for me. May I live my life as an example of your love and grace and point others to you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

MAY 22

The devotional guide will continue the same rhythm that we used for the last devotional guides where we practiced the 3 x 20 pattern. Spend at least 20 minutes, 3 times a week, in God's word. Each of the three days you will be asked to implement the **Read. Reflect. Respond.** pattern to help get more deeply into God's word.

Celebration Sunday is this Sunday during the 10:30 AM service ONLY. We are excited to celebrate all that God has done in the community of Hershey Free this past year.

DAY ONE

Read Philippians 2:1-11 to better understand the focus of this week's devotional found in verses 12-18.

- Think about the implications of Philippians 2:1-4 for the body of believers at Hershey Free. List the ways we should act toward one another so that our relationships are Christ-honoring.
- Verses 5-11 show how Jesus is the perfect example of what Paul instructs in verses 1-4. These verses also contain some deep theology about Christ. What do we learn about Jesus from these verses? What should our response be to these truths?

Reflect on verse 5 and think about your attitude toward others. When do you struggle to have a good attitude? What thoughts are going through your mind at that time? How does today's passage help you evaluate your own attitudes? Give the Spirit space to speak into your attitudes and permission to work in your heart to create transformation.

Respond by thinking about the way you interact with others. In your interactions this week, engage others with humility by being considerate of them and valuing their ideas and comments, even when you disagree or think they are wrong.

DAY TWO

Read Philippians 2:12-18 and focus on verses 12-13.

- In verses 1-11, Paul talked about Christ's obedience (2:8). Paul now calls us to be obedient. Think about how Christ was obedient and think about the issues that Paul has been dealing with so far in Philippians. Summarize what Paul might have in mind when he tells us to obey.
- Paul says that God is at work in the Philippians. How would an understanding of this reality motivate or empower the Philippians to obey even in the absence of their leader, Paul, who was writing to them from prison?

Reflect on what it means to work out your salvation. As you ponder your part in your spiritual growth, also remember that we partner with a good and gracious God who is at work in us. Pray for the Spirit to guide your understanding of this process.

Respond by asking the Lord to show you how you can fulfill his purpose for you. Intentionally look for opportunities to live as a follower of Christ who lives a life of integrity in every situation.



DAY THREE

Read Philippians 2:12-18 again, focusing on verses 14-18.

- What is it about grumbling and questioning that makes it impossible for a person to be “*blameless and pure*”, even when they are doing all things they have been asked to do? Why is it so important to Paul that our attitudes match our actions?
- In verse 2:14-15 Paul is reflecting on Deuteronomy 32:5. In what ways were the Israelites prevented from being lights in the world because of their grumbling and questioning? As you think about Paul’s desire for the Philippians to “*shine like stars*,” take time to process what it means for you to shine like a star.
- What does it mean to hold fast to the word of life?
- Why is Paul able to rejoice in suffering?

Reflect on the things that trigger grumbling or complaining in your life. What lies are you believing about God, yourself, your situation that drive your negative attitude in these situations?

Respond by choosing to be a light to the people in this culture where we are seeing so much darkness and disunity.

SMALL GROUP & FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This was a great time for the Hershey Free family to celebrate God’s work over the past year. How did the stories of celebration encourage and challenge you?
2. Pastor George mentioned that we should not get knocked off balance by our current culture. How does this passage give us a foundation to stand on in these challenging times? Why are we more likely to become discouraged when we focus on the cultural circumstances instead of on God?
3. How does grumbling and complaining sidetrack us from the things that really matter?
4. Why is it important to remember that God is at work in us while we are working out our salvation?
5. What does it look like for us to work out our salvation as a community, not just as individuals?
6. Take time to praise God for his faithfulness to us personally and to us as a community of believers.