

Engage in God's Transforming Gospel

Philippians 2:12-18

^[12] 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.

_____ **must** _____ **in Gospel transformation.** (v12)

The Gospel _____ **us transformational** _____ . (v13)

^[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,

Our Gospel transformation will _____ **manifest in our** _____ .
(v14-15a)

Our transformed behavior _____ **the Gospel's power through** _____ .
(v15b)

^[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. (ESV)

True Gospel transformation is _____ **of** _____ . (v16-18)

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Open: What are some common complaints that you hear nowadays?

Read: Philippians 2:12-18

1. In the previous section Paul spoke about Christ's obedience (2:8). In light of Christ's example and everything Paul has been talking about so far, what might Paul mean when he encourages us in verse 12 to continue to "obey"? Why would Paul have to insist on doing this "in [his] absence"?
2. What would be some examples of "working out your salvation" (v. 12)? How does this fit with the theological truth that we are saved by grace and not by works? What does it look like to work out our salvation "with fear and trembling" (v. 12)? Why would we need to do this?
3. From verse 13, how would you describe God's role and our role in the process of us working out our salvation? How is the truth of verse 13 meant to encourage us as we seek to obey God?
4. How does "grumbling and disputing" keep us from being "blameless and innocent" (v. 14)? What is the opposite of "grumbling and disputing"? How does obedience without "grumbling or disputing" allow us to "shine as lights in the world" (v. 15)?
5. What does it mean to "hold fast to the word of life" (v. 16)? What role does the "word of life" play in enabling the joyful obedience that Paul has been talking about in this passage? Who will be proud when you one day complete the race and meet Christ with joy? Of whom will you be proud because of your investment in them?
6. What are some examples of ways that we might pour ourselves out for the advance of the Gospel and the good of the church (v. 17)? What enables Paul to have joy as he does this, despite whatever trials or hardships it may involve (v. 17)? What is the value of the mutual rejoicing that Paul commends here (v. 18)?

Apply: What would it look like to obey Paul's teaching in your current situation?

Pray: Ask God to work in us so that we might joyfully obey Him without grumbling or complaining so we might shine as lights in our community and world.

Philippians 2:12-18

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

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that 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, ¹⁶holding 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. ¹⁷Even 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. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. (ESV)