

Philippians Bible Study - Lesson 6 - **Philippians 2:12-18**

October 20, 2024

Philippians 2:12-13

1. In 2:12 Paul says something that sounds a lot like “works-righteousness” (needing to do something to earn/merit righteousness before God).
 - a. How does 2:13 help direct us away from that thinking?
 - b. What difference does it make?
2. Free Will - “Reason and free will are able to a certain extent to live an outwardly decent life; but to be born anew, and to obtain inwardly another heart, mind, and disposition, this only the Holy Ghost effects.”¹
 - a. God gives us his will and a desire to work.
 - b. Our sinful nature wants to serve our selfish desire, but we have Christ in us (2:5).
 - c. We are free to choose our own actions, but it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to do anything that is God pleasing.

Philippians 2:14-15

3. In verse 14, Paul says not to grumble or question following God (the opposite of 2:12 - “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling).
 - a. When Christ was obedient to death on a cross (2:8), he did so knowing that it was the will of the Father (Luke 22:42).
 - b. Just as Jesus approached obedience with humility, so to should we.
4. 2:15 - Μέσσην = midst - “... children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation.”
 - a. This word is used when Jesus died in the midst of the criminals on the cross; when he appeared in the midst of the disciples behind closed doors after his resurrection; and when Jesus will be the lamb seated in the midst of the throne (Rev. 7:17).
 - b. Jesus is the light that shines in the world, then and now through each child of God.

Philippians 2:16-18

5. 2:17 - “Drink offering” - drink offerings were poured out alongside other food offerings.
 - a. Paul said in 1:19-23 that death was not something he feared, but held an “eager expectation and hope” that Christ would be honored by his life or death.
 - b. Paul would rejoice in his death if it was to be paired with the sacrificial offering of the faith of the Philippians.
6. Living out our lives as faithful followers of Christ is our sacrifice to God. What are specific ways we can offer our whole selves as sacrifices to God?

¹ FC SD II 26 (Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, second section, 26th paragraph).

God bless.

-Pastor Brubaker