



Sermon Discussion Guide

October 18, 2026
Philippians 2:12-18

Summary

Big Idea: Work Out Your Salvation Knowing that it is rooted in and motivated by God's Work

Last week we learned how God has called each follower of Jesus to take the same trajectory and way of life that He took – in humility, considering others as more important than ourselves. Now Paul calls us to put that into practice and live it out. “Work out your salvation,” Paul says, not to earn salvation, but knowing it is Christ who has worked for you, is now working in you, and desires this gospel to be worked out of our changed hearts, minds, and desires. Do this, Paul says, without grumbling or disputing (complaining or arguing). We don’t make it one verse in this working, without being convicted and convinced that the same gospel that has placed us on the path of the Christian life, is also the same sustenance we need along the way. To live like lights of truth, love, hope, lights of Christ in this dark world, we need to be fully assured and motivated that God is working in us, to change us, by his forgiving grace, for his name’s sake.

Discussion Questions

Read Philippians 2:12-18

1. What is Paul’s main point in these verses? How do you know?
2. How does this relate to what he said earlier in this chapter in 2:3-4?
3. How is verse 12 connected to verse 13?
 - a. Why do these 2 verses “need” each other? What impact would it have if verse 13 was not there? If verse 12 was not there?
 - b. How would you explain to someone the difference between working to earn your salvation and living out the salvation God has already given you?
 - c. Is this a frivolous distinction or an essential distinction?
 - d. In daily life, how are we tempted to lose sight of this truth?
4. Paul says, “..both to will and work..” Why are these two parts significant? Where have you seen both of these at work in your own life? Where have you tried to the “work” side, without the “will” side? How did that go?
5. v14 “Do all things without grumbling or disputing..” Why do you think Paul treats this as the first essential test of faith based on what he just taught us?
 - a. Where are you tempted to grumble? Work, home, church? How is all grumbling essentially grumbling toward God?
 - b. What reasons does Paul give for why we ought to live this way? (look at v15-16) How do these reasons function to shape our will/desire? Which one stands out as most motivating to you?
6. What is one practical way that you can work out your salvation this week: stopping a pattern of complaining, serving someone, or sharing the gospel with someone? Pick one, work for it, and report back to the group next week how it went.



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