



Date: **February 4, 2018**

Scripture: **Philippians 2:12-18**

Last week we were challenged from Philippians 2:1-11 to humbly seek the welfare and interests of others before ourselves. This humility for the sake of others was exemplified in the incarnation of Christ when he “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant.” (2:7) In humility, God the Son humbled himself in order to accomplish redemption for his image bearers.

Paul continues his encouragement to the Philippians to live “as lights to the world.” (2:15) In order to do this they must “work out their own salvation” which God is simultaneously working in them (2:13).

The synergistic¹ nature of our salvation - On the heels of challenging the Philippians to strive for unity and the interests of others.....

- Paul tells the Philippians to “work out their own salvation with fear and trembling”²:
 - What does Paul have in mind here in regards to “work”?
 - What does it look like to do this with “fear and trembling”? (see footnote 1 for help)
 - What does working out our salvation look like in the context of our.....
 - Church
 - Community
 - Personal lives
- The working out of our salvation is not something we do alone. God is doing this work in us.³
 - How do we understand the command to work out our salvation and the reality that it is God working it in us? Is this contradictory?
 - What is God “willing” and “working” in us “for his good pleasure? (2:13)

¹ Synergism is simply the idea that two people or things are working to accomplish something together. Monergism would be the work of one thing or person to accomplish something. Generally, we understand the work and accomplishment of salvation for believers as something only the triune God does (monergism), while after we are saved we work out our salvation while God also works it out in us (synergism).

² For Phil. 2:12 the NIV reads,
“Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.”

³ Paul has in mind here working *from* salvation, not *for* salvation.



- Paul continues his challenge to believers to “shine as light in the world.” (2:15)
 - How does this challenge fit into the broader context of how to deal with suffering?
 - Is there something particular about the nature of “grumbling and disputing” that causes Paul to mention it in the context of shining as lights?
 - Paul describes the world as “crooked and perverse.” (2:15) Read Deut. 32:5, who else fit this description and why? What is the challenge/warning for us today?
 - Who/what is the “word of life” and how does “holding fast” to it help us shine as lights among our generation?

Action/thought for this week:

- **Personally:** Pray that the Holy Spirit would show you ways in which the good news of the gospel needs to be shone more clearly in your life.
- **As a church:** Pray that the Holy Spirit would show our church ways in which the good news of the gospel needs to be shone more clearly in how we (1) work out our salvation together for the betterment of others and (2) work out the life changing good news of the gospel before the generation(s) we live around.