

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ April 15, 2012



PHILIPPIANS: To Know Christ and Make Him Known

“A Willing and Joyful Sacrifice” Philippians 2:12-18

Last Sunday we were reminded about the identity of Jesus. He is the God-Man who humbled himself on the cross but was raised and exalted to the Father’s right hand where he now reigns. He has been given the name above all names – LORD.

This week we will talk about one of the practical implications of Christ’s Lordship: *obedience*. The author of Philippians is going to tell us that we should continually “work out” our salvation with fear, trembling, and joy.

Joyful obedience? Isn’t that an oxymoron? Obedience is often portrayed negatively, but not in the Bible! How is it that Christianity promotes willing, joyful obedience? Dive into this discussion guide to find out.



KNOWING GOD

Read Philippians 2:12-18. What incentives does Paul give here for believers to “work out [our] salvation” (vs. 12)?

What does it mean to “work out” your salvation? And why do it with “fear and trembling”?

Summarize what you learned about sanctification from the sermon and your own study of this week’s passage.



GROWING TOGETHER

What do you often find most difficult about living in “a crooked and depraved generation” (vs. 15)?

Tell about a time when, by God’s grace, you feel you “shone like a star” (vs. 15). What did you do and what was its effect upon those around you? (This is not boasting, it’s celebrating “the God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”)



SERVING OTHERS

In vs. 17, Paul talks about his own suffering in terms of being “poured out like a drink offering.” What fears or insecurities are exposed when you consider that God is calling you to suffer on behalf of others?

Do you need to repent of “complaining or arguing” (vs. 14)? Why is it important not to whine and complain?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

- a) Many homes (even Christian ones) are filled with complaining, fussing, and arguing. What about yours? Spend a little time taking the “joy temperature” of your home. Does it “shine like a star” in your neighborhood because each family member tries to be kind and cooperative? How can you work together to raise the level of joy in your house?
- b) Verse 13 reminds us that it is God who is at work in his children. Go around the family circle and point out how you see God at work in each person. Let everyone make positive comments about at least one other member of the family.

SERMON NOTES