

Philippians 2:12-18

Work it out!



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – Philippians 2:12-18

1. Read Philippians 2:12-18. In 2:12-13, what is the relationship between our work and God's work?
2. What do you think it means to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling"?
3. Some arguments seem to be occurring within the church in Philippi (see 4:2-3). However, when Paul uses the words "grumbling" and "arguing" in 2:14 he is probably thinking more about grumbling against God. Why would Christians in Philippi be grumbling against, or arguing with God?
4. Notice the close relationship between sacrifice and gladness in 2:17-18. Discuss this perhaps unexpected relationship in Scripture between suffering and rejoicing; sacrifice and gladness.

The Scriptures – Philippians 2:12-18 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. Many of the words in 2:15 are borrowed from the preaching of Moses in Deuteronomy 32:4-6. Read and discuss the words of Moses. Why do you think Paul echoes them here?
6. Read and discuss Daniel 12:1-3. Paul is thinking about this passage when he tells the Philippian believers to shine like stars in the sky.
7. What does Paul mean by the "day of Christ" in 2:16? Read and discuss Philippians 3:20-21 in which he writes more about the day of Christ.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Philippians 2:12-18 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. What are some areas in life in which we are tempted to grumble and argue with God? Or perhaps to grumble and argue with one another?
9. What are you working out at present? Are there any areas of life in which you are experiencing "fear and trembling"? How can we prayerfully support you in your discipleship?