

# PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

## Sermon Reflection Questions

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*These questions are designed to help individuals, families, and small groups discuss and apply passages in the Philippians sermon series as taught at Grace Bible Church in fall 2018.*

### Observe & Interpret

**Read** Philippians 2:12-18.

- How does 2:12-13 relate to the previous paragraph (2:1-11)?
- How does 2:14-18 relate to 2:12-13?
- Specifically, Why did Paul move from such a profound exhortation in 2:12-13 about our salvation to such a basic command about grumbling and disputing?

What aspect of “salvation” was Paul referring to in verse 2:12 (past, present or future)?

Based on your answer to the previous question:

- What role do works play in our “salvation” (cf. 2:15-16; 1 Cor 3:10-15; Ephesians 2:10)?
- Why should “fear and trembling” characterize how we “work out” our own salvation (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; 1 Peter 1:17-19)?
- How do you reconcile Paul’s exhortation here with his emphasis elsewhere that “salvation” is a “free gift” (cp. Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:24; 4:5)?

How exactly does God work in us “both to will and to work” (cf. Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:22-27; Romans 8:2-4; Galatians 5:19-23)? Note: this phrase could alternatively be translated, “both to desire and to do.”

The concept of “joy” appears throughout this book. What are the sources of joy in Philippians?

### Apply

What are you tempted to grumble and complain about? What is the cause of your grumbling (cf. James 4:1-3)? What is the solution to your grumbling? What are the beneficial results to you and to the church when you don’t grumble?

**Memorize: Philippians 2:12-13.** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.