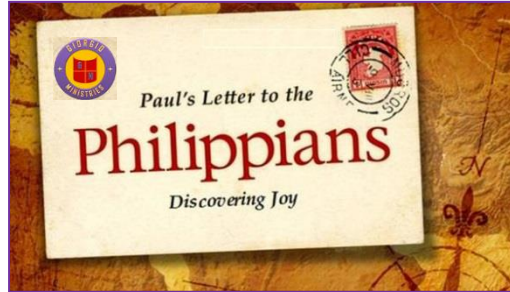




Philippians

Joy In Christ

Lesson 07



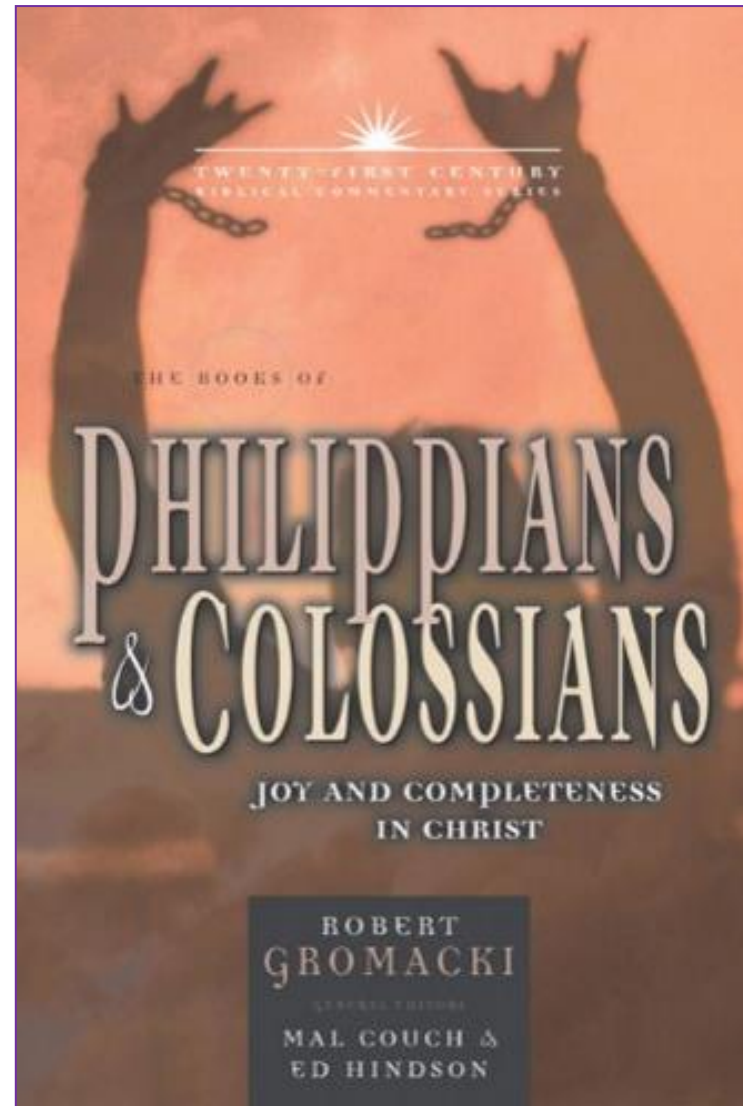
Marks of Humble Service

Philippians 2:12-16

Philip Giorgio

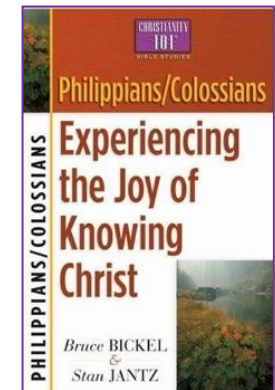
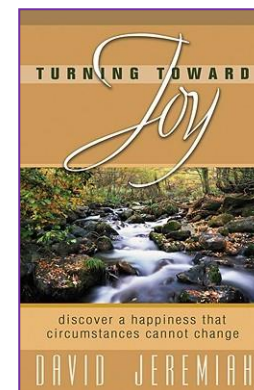
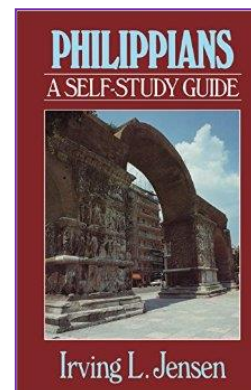
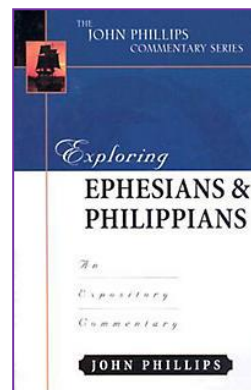
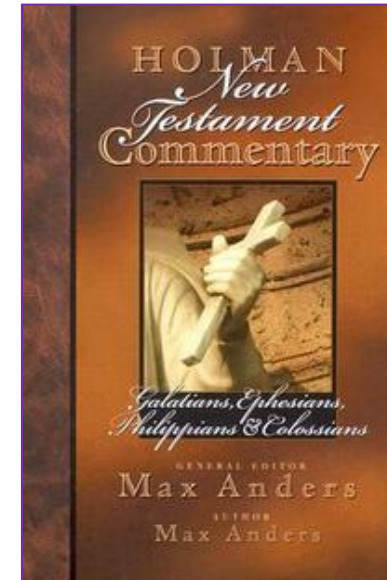
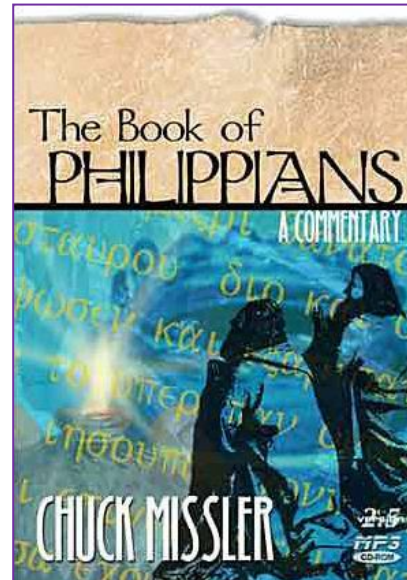


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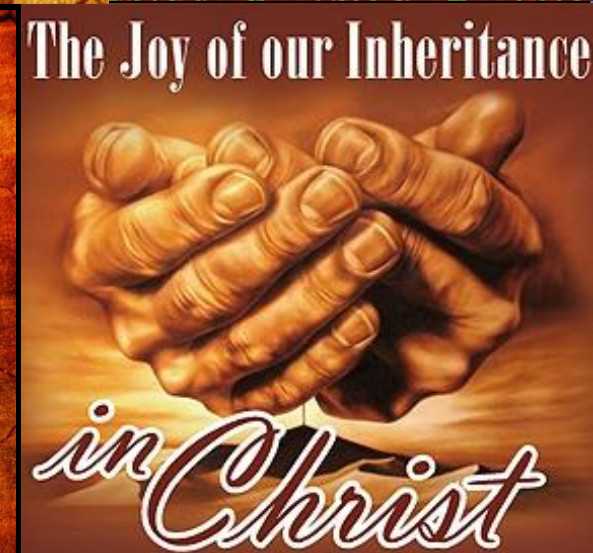
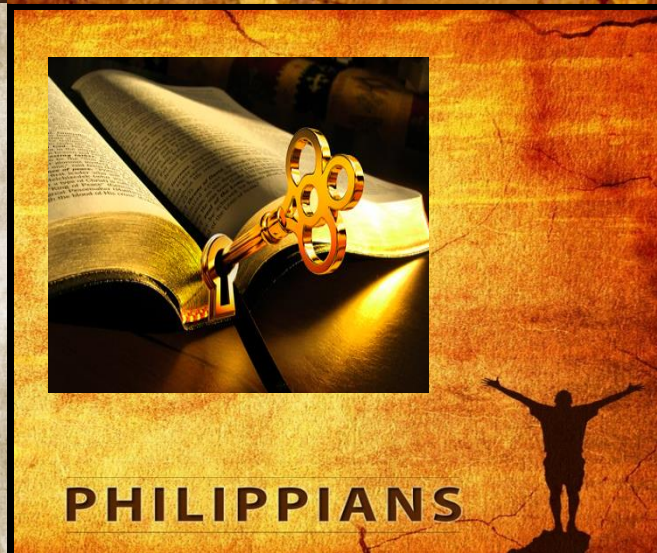
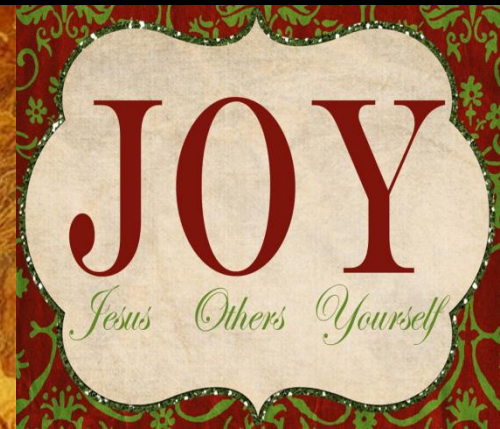
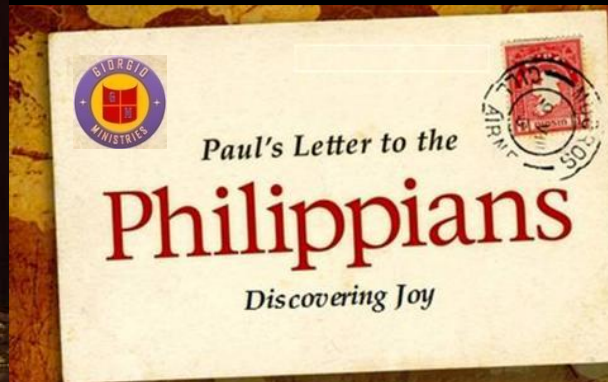
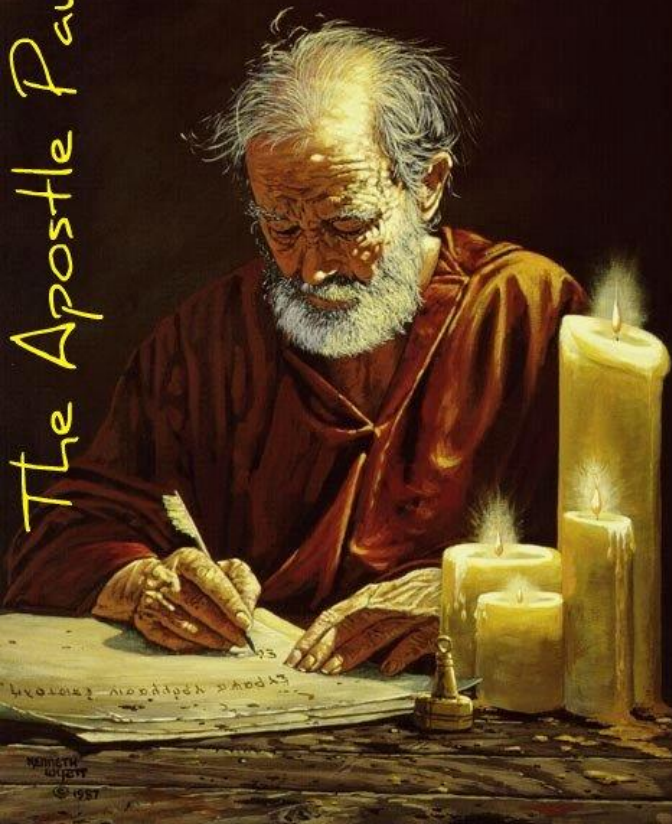




References



The Apostle Paul





Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

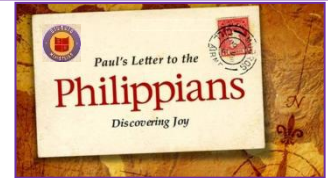


Lesson Outline

Lesson 07 - Outline

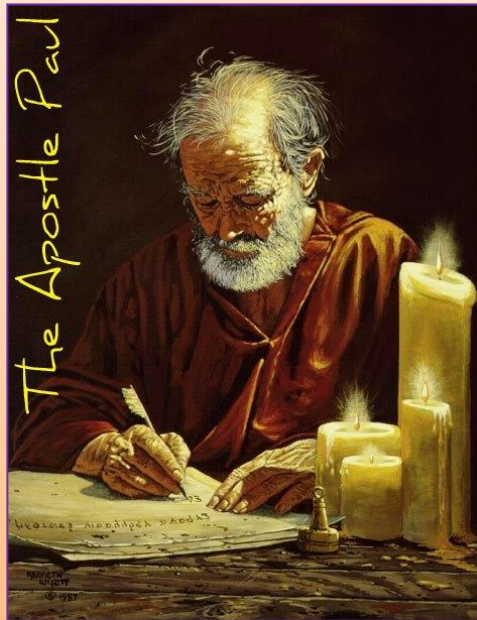
■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service



• STRUCTURE

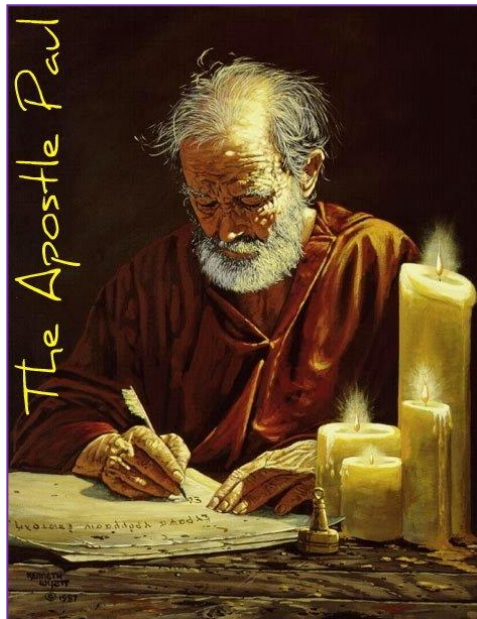
- ➔ » Lesson Preview Introduction
- » To Will and To Do *Philippians 2:12-13*
- » Hold Fast the Word of Life *Philippians 2:14-16*



Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

- Preview ... MARKS OF HUMBLE SERVICE

Paul is concerned with the spiritual walk of the Philippians. He praises them for their obedience but wants them to continue their growth by working out their salvation. God is sovereignly controlling their lives, so they are to do all things without grumbling or dispute. They are to show constantly that they are innocent in a crooked world and to stay close to the Word of Life, which is the revealed Word of God.



Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

• INTRODUCTION

Christians play both an **active** and a **passive** role in **their relationship** with **God**. **They** must **believe**, yet **they** must be **quickened**. To grow **spiritually**, it is imperative for **them** to **walk** in **holiness** yet to be **led** by the **Spirit** as well.

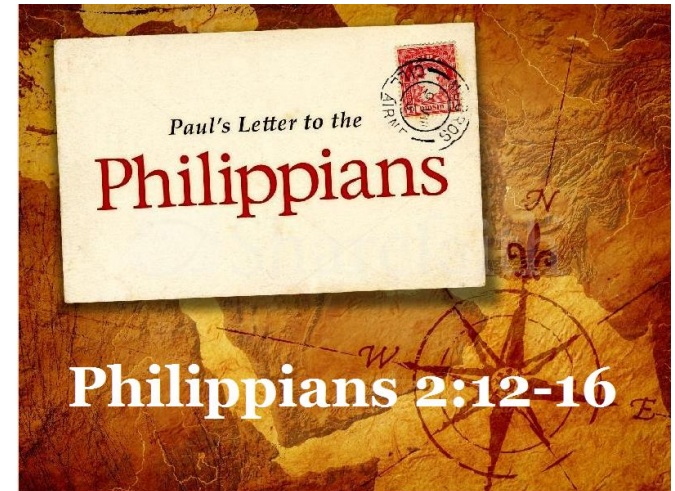
Human accountability and **divine sovereignty** thus form **two** sides of the same coin representing the channel of **redemptive** purpose.

In this lesson, **Paul** further develops **his admonitions** to the **church** (1:27-2:4).

The illustration of **Christ's humility** only heightened their **obligation** to become **true servants** of the **gospel**.

This portion of **scripture** is **structured** around **two** main **commands**:

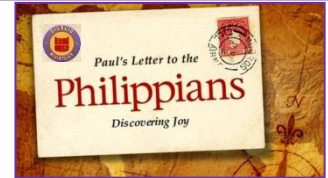
“**WORK OUT**” (2:12-13) and “**Do**” (2:14).



Lesson 07 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service

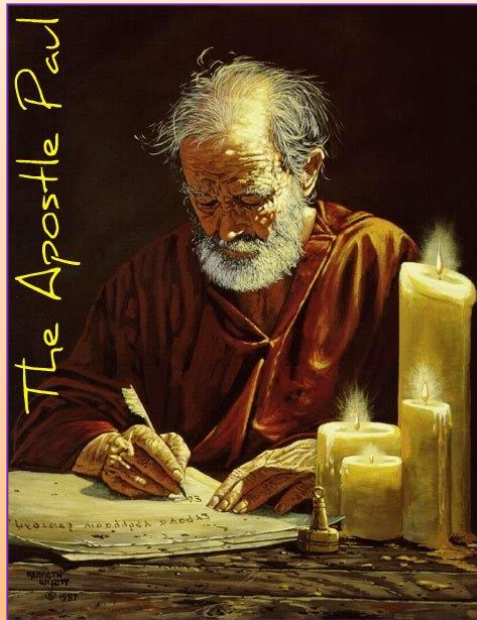


• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview Introduction

➔ » To Will and To Do *Philippians 2:12-13*

» Hold Fast the Word of Life *Philippians 2:14-16*



To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

• Human Responsibility

- Genuine effort involves God and humans as colaborers. Believers cannot become spiritual by themselves, nor can Christ live His life through unyielded vessels.
- The phrase “MY BELOVED” reveals Paul’s personal concern for the church. Earlier, he identified them as “BRETHREN” (1:12); later, he used this same description (3:1, 13, 17; 4:8). He joined the two titles later (4:1).
- Paul regarded them as genuine believers and with great affection.

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

• Human Responsibility

• OBEDIENCE

- The Philippians' obedience was known to all.
- They always obeyed.
- The adverb "ALWAYS" shows the stability of their Christian walk.
- Links back to the obedience of Christ ... 2:8.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

--- Philippians 2:8 ... NKJV

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

• Human Responsibility

• WORK

- “**WORK OUT**” literally means “**Keep Working Down**”.
- It involves a **constant** process of **self-initiated activity**.
- When a believer is thoroughly **working** at his **spiritual development**, he is **working out** what **God** is **working in**.
- He is putting his **position** into **practice** (Ephesians 2:10).
- Believers should **complete** what **God** has **started**.
- **THREE** FEATURES of this **work** are presented.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

--- Ephesians 2:8-10 ... NKJV

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

• Human Responsibility

• WORK

- **THREE** features of this WORK are presented.
 - **FIRST**, the **Time of the Work** is seen in the phrase ...
 “NOT AS IN MY PRESENCE ONLY, BUT NOW MUCH MORE IN MY ABSENCE”.
 - The “**PRESENCE**” could refer **either** to the past during the apostle’s **first visit** to their city **or** to his **anticipated return** (1:27; 2:24).
 - Paul has observed the Philippian’s rapid **spiritual growth**, and he also was **convinced** that they would **prosper** under his **future ministry**.
 - He knew, however, that their **advancement** could not be **dependent** on his **personal supervision** of their lives.
 - The strong **contrast** manifests his concern that they must **learn** to **mature without** his personal **help**.
 - They needed **God**, to **grow** in **grace** and **knowledge**, but they did not need Paul (2:13).

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

--- Romans 4:5 ... NKJV

• Human Responsibility

• WORK

- **THREE** features of this WORK are presented.
 - **SECOND**, the **Object of the Work** was the Philippian's own **salvation**.
 - People **cannot work** for their **salvation**, but they can **work out** their **spiritual position** (Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-10).
 - Biblical **salvation** involves **deliverance** from the **penalty of sin** - **Justification** (2 Thessalonians 1:9), from the **power of sin** - **Sanctification** (Hebrews 7:25), and from the **presence of sin** - **Glorification** (Romans 13:11).
 - These are the **three tenses of salvation**.
 - The Philippians were **saved people** (1:6; 3:1); thus **salvation** here refers to the **daily struggle** for **victory** over the **sin nature** (**sanctification**).
 - Each believer is **responsible** for his or her own **success** or **failure**. He cannot achieve **growth** for others, nor can he **blame** others for his **carnality**.

Salvation - Three Tenses - SAVED FROM WHAT?

| SALVATION | | |
|---|--|---|
| PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE |
| JUSTIFICATION | SANCTIFICATION | GLORIFICATION |
| <i>Saved from...</i> | | |
| PENALTY of <i>SIN</i> | POWER of <i>SIN</i> | PRESENCE of <i>SIN</i> |
| 2 Thessalonians 1:9 | Hebrew 7:25 | Romans 13:11 |
| These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, | Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. | And <i>do</i> this, knowing the time, that now <i>it is</i> high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation <i>is</i> nearer than when we <i>first</i> believed. |

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:12 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

¹⁵ And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him.

---2 Corinthians 7:15 ... NKJV

• Human Responsibility

• WORK

- **THREE** features of this WORK are presented.
 - **THIRD**, the **Attitude of Work** must be “**WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING**.”
 - When believers perceive **God** as **He is** and what **He** wants to **do** through **them**, these good **emotional response** will be **produced**.
 - They do not **mean** a psychological **frailty** or a **fear** of hostile **people** and adverse **circumstances**.
 - Paul **preached WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING** (1 Corinthians 2:3).
 - The Corinthians **revival** was marked by those **emotions** (2 Corinthians 7:15), and so were the **lives** of **obedient** Christian **slaves** (Ephesians 6:5).
 - **Obedience** and **holy emotions** are **companions**.

The Joy of Titus

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:13 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is **God** who **works** in **you** both to **will** and to **do** for **His** good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

**Your conduct
 will reflect your
 character.**

• Divine Responsibility

- People must work because **God** is working.
- **FOUR** aspects of this **Divine Work** are presented ...

1. SUBJECT OF THE WORK

- All persons of the triune **Being** are actively involved in the life of each believer.
 - The **Father** is the husbandmen who prunes and cleanses each saint (John 15:1-2).
 - The **Holy Spirit** produces His fruit within the child of **God** (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - **Christ** lives by faith through each Christian (Galatians 2:20).
- It appears, though, that the name of **God** here refers to the **Father** (2:9).
- The divine activity is literally an “**In-Working**”. The transliteration is “**the One who Energizes**.”
- **God’s** inner work deals with enablement and character, whereas a person’s outer work manifests his or her conduct.

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:13 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is **God** who **works** in **you** both to **will** and to **do** for *His* good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

• Divine Responsibility

- **FOUR** aspects of this **Divine Work** are presented ...

2. LOCATION OF THE WORK

- **God** works within the human life (“**IN YOU**”).
- This involves the total personality -
 - **Intellect**
 - **Emotions**
 - **Will**.
- **God** does not want to be excluded from any area of human experience.
- **He** is not content just to indwell the body of each believer;
- **He** wants to energize the new life **He** has quickened.

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:13 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is **God** who **works** in **you** both to **will** and to **do** for **His** good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

¹² I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. – Romans 12:1-2 ... NKJV

• Divine Responsibility

- **FOUR** aspects of this **Divine Work** are presented ...

3. PURPOSE OF THE WORK

- The **TWO** part of the phrase “**TO WILL AND TO DO**”, show the **TWO** goals of the **divine in-working**.

FIRST, **God** desires “**TO WILL**”.

- The will of **God** manifests His purpose. It includes that which **He** has unconditionally determined to do within the lives of all believers regardless of their faithfulness (Romans 8:28-30).
- It also includes that which **He** wants to do within each Christian; however, it is conditioned upon the believer's obedience and submission to **His** will (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3).
- **God** does not force spirituality on anyone who refuses to have it, but **He** still continues to work out **His** purpose. Instead of blessing, **He** may chastise a disobedient child (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- The commands to repent and to be reconciled are constantly set forth before His erring children.

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:13 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is **God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

• Divine Responsibility

- **FOUR** aspects of this **Divine Work** are presented ...

3. PURPOSE OF THE WORK

- The **TWO** part of the phrase “**TO WILL AND TO DO**”, show the **TWO** goals of the **divine in-working**.

SECOND, **God** desires “**TO WORK**”.

- The energy of **God** manifests **His** power to accomplish **His** purpose.
- **God** never **commands** a believer to do something without **supplying** the **ability** to do it (4:13).
- **Divine grace** and **sufficiency** are always available for people to do the tasks appointed them (2 Corinthians 3:5).

⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God,

--- 2 Corinthians 3:5 ... NKJV

To Will and To Do - Philippians 2:13 - OBSERVATIONS

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³ for it is **God** who **works** in **you** both to **will** and to **do** for **His** good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ... NKJV

• Divine Responsibility

- **FOUR** aspects of this **Divine Work** are presented ...

4. GOAL OF THE WORK

- **God** works for **His** own **glory** (“**FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE**”).
- All aspects of **salvation** are **executed** for the **praise** of the **glory** of **divine grace** (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14).
- They are **decreed according** to the **good pleasure** of the divine will (Ephesians 1:5, 9).
- Believers must find **pleasure** in what brings **God** **pleasure**.
- When they do, they have **joy** and **satisfaction**.

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. – Ephesians 1:5-6 ... NKJV

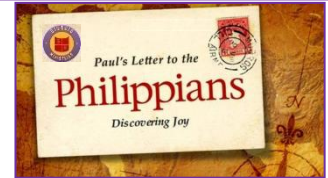
¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ...

¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. ---Ephesians 1:12, 14 ... NKJV

Lesson 07 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service

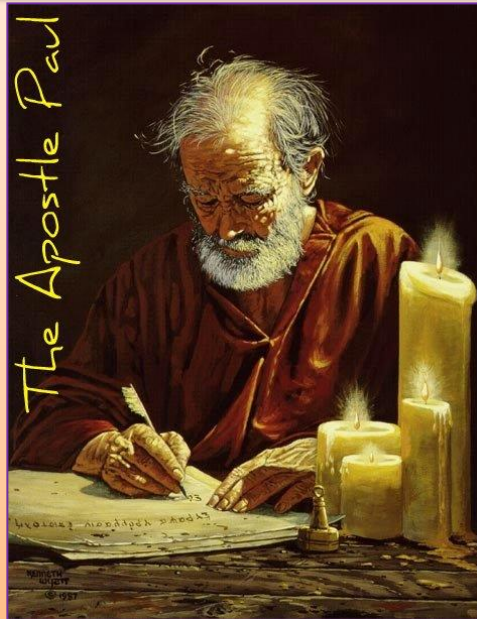


• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

» To Will and To Do *Philippians 2:12-13*

➔ » Hold Fast the Word of Life *Philippians 2:14-16*



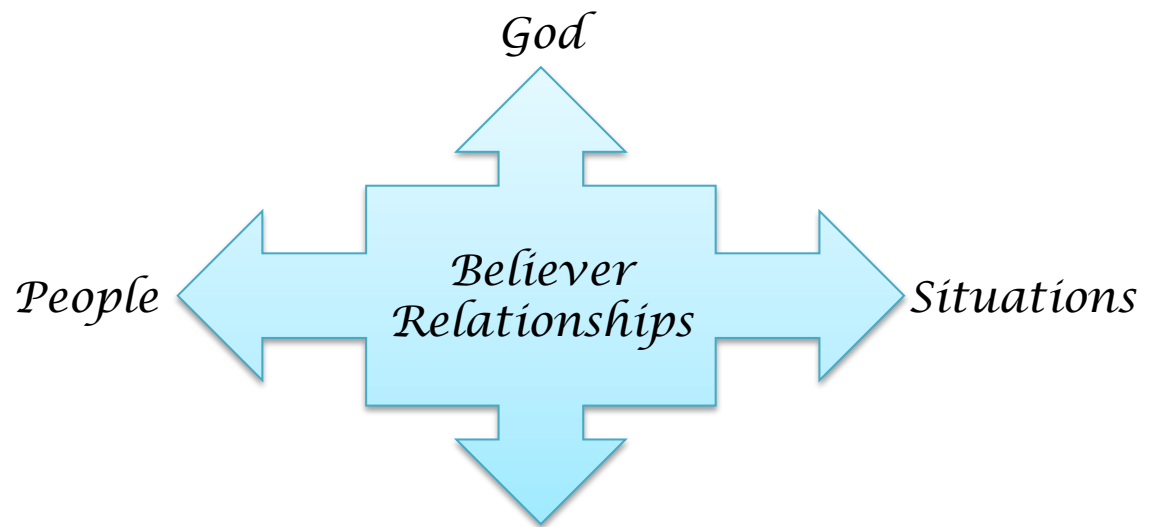
Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:14 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ **Do** all things **without complaining** and **disputing**, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Explanation of the Command

- The **First Command** (2:12-13) dealt with the believer's **VERTICAL relationship** to **God**,
- Whereas the **Second Command** (2:14) concerns their **HORIZONTAL relationship** to **people** and **situations**.
- Their **first** was to be obeyed with a **positive attitude**;
- The **second** is to be discharged without a **negative outlook**.



Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:14 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ **Do** all things **without complaining** and **disputing**, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Explanation of the Command

• THE ACTION

- Paul simply declared: “**DO ALL THINGS**.”
- This **stresses** the necessity to **keep on doing** at **all times** and in **all situations**.
- The believer must **always** be a **doer** of the **Word** (James 1:22).
- The direct object (“**ALL THINGS**”) includes **all** that **God** has **commanded**.
- **Love** for **God** manifests itself in the **keeping** of **His** directions (1 John 5:2).
- **Life**, outside **God's will**, is **oppressive**, but voluntary conformity to the **divine** will brings **rest to the soul** (Matthew 11:28-30).

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. --- James 1:22 ... NKJV

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. --- 1 John 5:2 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:14 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ **Do** all things **without complaining** and **disputing**, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Explanation of the Command

• THE ATTITUDE

- Christians are to **avoid** “**COMPLAINING AND DISPUTING**.”
- When **adversity** comes, people have a **tendency** to **blame** others or **God** for their difficulties **rather** than faulting themselves or **rejoicing** in tribulation.
- When the first sin occurred, **Adam** blamed **God** and **Eve** faulted the **serpent** (Genesis 3:11-13).
- The noun “**COMPLAINING**” comes from a **verb** that means to **mutter** or **grumble**.
- It is an “*outward expression of an inner lawlessness and rebellion that shakes the fist in the face of God and repudiates His right to rule, that questions His love and wisdom.*”
- The **children of Israel** constantly **complained** when they wandered in the wilderness (Exodus 14:10-12; 15:24; 16:3; 17:3; Numbers 14:2).
- Their **complaining** actually was directed at **God** through Moses (Exodus 16:9).

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:14 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ **Do** all things **without complaining** and **disputing**, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Explanation of the Command

• THE ATTITUDE

- The noun “**DISPUTING**” conveys the ideas of **dialog** and **argument**. It emphasizes **mental murmuring**, whereas **complaining** reflects an **emotional response**.
- Both **attitudes** reveal a spirit of **carnality**.
- They constitute **rebellion** against what **God** wants people to do, when **He** wants them to do it, where it should be done, and why it should occur.
- In essence, they are like the **clay** that questions the **potter** as he fashions it (Romans 9:19-21).
- Such **constant bickering** will lead to **divine chastisement**.

¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” ²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? --- Romans 9:12-21 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that **you** may **become blameless** and **harmless**, **children** of **God** without fault in the **midst** of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation, among **whom you shine** as **lights** in the **world**, ¹⁶ **holding fast** the **word** of **life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Purposes of the Command

- A **holy reason** can always be found behind a **divine command**.
- The verb “**THAT YOU MAY PROVE YOURSELVES**”, shows that there is a **difference** between **being** a Christian and **living out** the Christian **life**.
- The **former** refers to **position**, the **latter** to **practice**.
- **FOUR purposes** are expressed.

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that **you** may **become blameless** and **harmless**, **children** of **God** without fault in the **midst** of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation, among **whom you shine** as **lights** in the **world**, ¹⁶ **holding fast** the **word** of **life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Purposes of the Command

1. BLAMELESS BEHAVIOR

- The concept “**BLAMELESS**” means a **freedom from censure**.
- To be “**BLAMELESS**” means to be **judged** by others and found **innocent** and **pure** (1 Thessalonians 2:10; 5:23).
- To be “**INNOCENT**” is to be **unmixed** or **unadulterated**.
- The term was used of solid gold **jewelry** that was **without** an **alloy**.
- In **medicine** it referred to a **prescription** that was useful but **harmless**.
- Such **spiritual purity**, **unmixed** with **sin** or **hypocrisy**, can be **attained** only by the **heat** of **testing** through **adversity**.

¹⁰ You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;

--- 1 Thessalonians 2:10 ... NKJV

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. --- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that **you** may **become blameless** and **harmless**, **children** of **God** without fault in the **midst** of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation, among **whom you shine** as **lights** in the **world**, ¹⁶ **holding fast** the **word** of **life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Purposes of the Command

2. SPOTLESS CHILDREN

- Paul called the Philippians to be “**CHILDREN OF GOD**.”
- Sinners become **children of God** by **regeneration** through the **Holy Spirit** (John 1:12) and they inherit the **divine nature** of their heavenly **Father**.
- Paul also wanted them to **become** “**ABOVE REPROACH**.”
- This **negative** adjective literally **means** “**WITHOUT SPOT OR BLEMISH**”.
- Believers have been **washed** of the **guilt** and **filth** of their **sin** so that they are **clean** in **God's** sight (John 13:10; 1 Corinthians 6:11).

¹⁰ **He** was in the world, and the world was made through **Him**, and the world did not know **Him**. ¹¹ **He** came to **His** own, and **His** own did not receive **Him**. ¹² But as many as received **Him**, to them **He** gave the right to become **children of God**, to those who believe in **His** name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of **God**. --- John 1:10-13 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that **you** may **become blameless** and **harmless**, **children** of **God** without fault in the **midst** of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation, among **whom you shine** as **lights** in the **world**, ¹⁶ **holding fast** the **word** of **life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Purposes of the Command

2. SPOTLESS CHILDREN

- Nevertheless, they still must be **cleaned** from the **daily defilement** of the **world** (John 13:10; 1 John 1:9).
- The Philippians' environment was **not conducive** to **holiness**, because they **lived** "**IN THE MIDST OF A CROOKED AND PERVERSE GENERATION.**"
- The word "**CROOKED**" implies that which is **curved** in **contrast** to that which is **straight**.
- The adjective "**PERVERSE**" denotes that which is **permanently distorted** or **twisted**.
- The world is full of **ungodly people** who will never be **reformed** or **regenerated**; rather, **immorality** will **increase** (2 Timothy 3:1-7).
- Believers should **not expect** to **convert** the entire world, nor should they **permit** the world to **change** them.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. --- 1 John 1:9 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that **you** may **become blameless** and **harmless**, **children** of **God** **without fault** in the **midst** of a **crooked** and **perverse** **generation**, **among** **whom you shine** as **lights** in the **world**, ¹⁶ **holding fast** the **word** of **life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Purposes of the Command

3. LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

- Christians should be separated from the **world** but not isolated from it.
- They must “**SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD.**”
- **Christ**, as the **Light of the World**, **shone** in the **world** of **spiritual darkness** (John 1:4).
- Believers, as **light**, should also let their **lights shine** (Matthew 5:14, 16).
- **Light** must function where it is needed - in the **darkness**.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

--- John 1:1-5 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:15-16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that **you** may **become blameless** and **harmless**, **children** of **God** without fault in the **midst** of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation, among **whom you shine** as **lights** in the **world**, ¹⁶ **holding fast** the **word** of **life**, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Purposes of the Command

4. WORD BEARERS

- Believers must “**HOLD FAST THE WORLD OF LIFE.**”
- The verb means not just to **hold fast to oneself**, but also to **hold forth to others**.
- A person can only **witness** to that which he or she **already possesses**.
- **Jesus Christ** is the **Word of Life** (1 John 1:1);
- Each portion of **Scripture** is a word of life about **Him**.
- The written **Word** reveals the living **Word** to those who are **dead** in **spiritual darkness**.

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the **Word of life**— **2** the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— **3** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. --- 1 John 1:1-4 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ **holding fast the word of life**, so that **I** may **rejoice** in the **day of Christ** that **I** have **not run in vain** or **labored in vain**.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Results of the Command

• BOASTFUL REJOICING

- Paul **knew** that he would **appear** “**IN THE DAY OF CHRIST**.”
- This **event** includes both the **return** of the **Savior** and **His** subsequent **judgment of believers**.
- It involves the **reunion** of the **saints** with each other and with the **Lord** (2 Thessalonians 2:1).
- In that day, Paul wanted to **rejoice** over what his **ministry** had **accomplished** in the **lives** of the Philippians.
- The phrase, “**TO GLORY**”, includes a **pride** of **achievement** and should not be limited to mere **joy**.
- There is **joy** when a sinner receives salvation, but there is greater **joy** when spiritual children **walk in truth** (3 John 1:4).
- Unfortunately, the **joy** of **parenthood** is readily **lessened** by the **disobedience** of children (Hebrews 13:17).

¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

---Hebrews 13:17 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ **holding fast the word of life**, so that **I** may **rejoice** in the **day** of **Christ** that **I** have **not run in vain** or **labored in vain**.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

• Results of the Command

• PRODUCTIVE LABOR

- Paul was **not content** with merely a **good start**.
- He wanted his spiritual children to go on to **maturity** and **holiness**, to **be right** both in **position** and in **practice**.
- He determined the **success** of his **ministry** by **TWO** concepts.
 - **First**, he did not want to find out at the **Judgement Seat of Christ** that he had "**RUN IN VAIN**." This would occur if he preached a faulty or partial message (Galatians 2:2).
 - **Second**, he did not want the future to reveal that he had toiled "**IN VAIN**." Both **legalism** and **Satan** could cause this result (Galatians 4:11; 1 Thessalonians 3:5).

² And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means **I might run, or had run, in vain**. --- Galatians 2:2 ... NKJV

Hold Fast the Word of Life - Philippians 2:16 - OBSERVATIONS

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ **holding fast the word of life**, so that **I** may **rejoice** in the **day** of **Christ** that **I** have **not run in vain** or **labored in vain**.

--- Philippians 2:14-16 ... NKJV

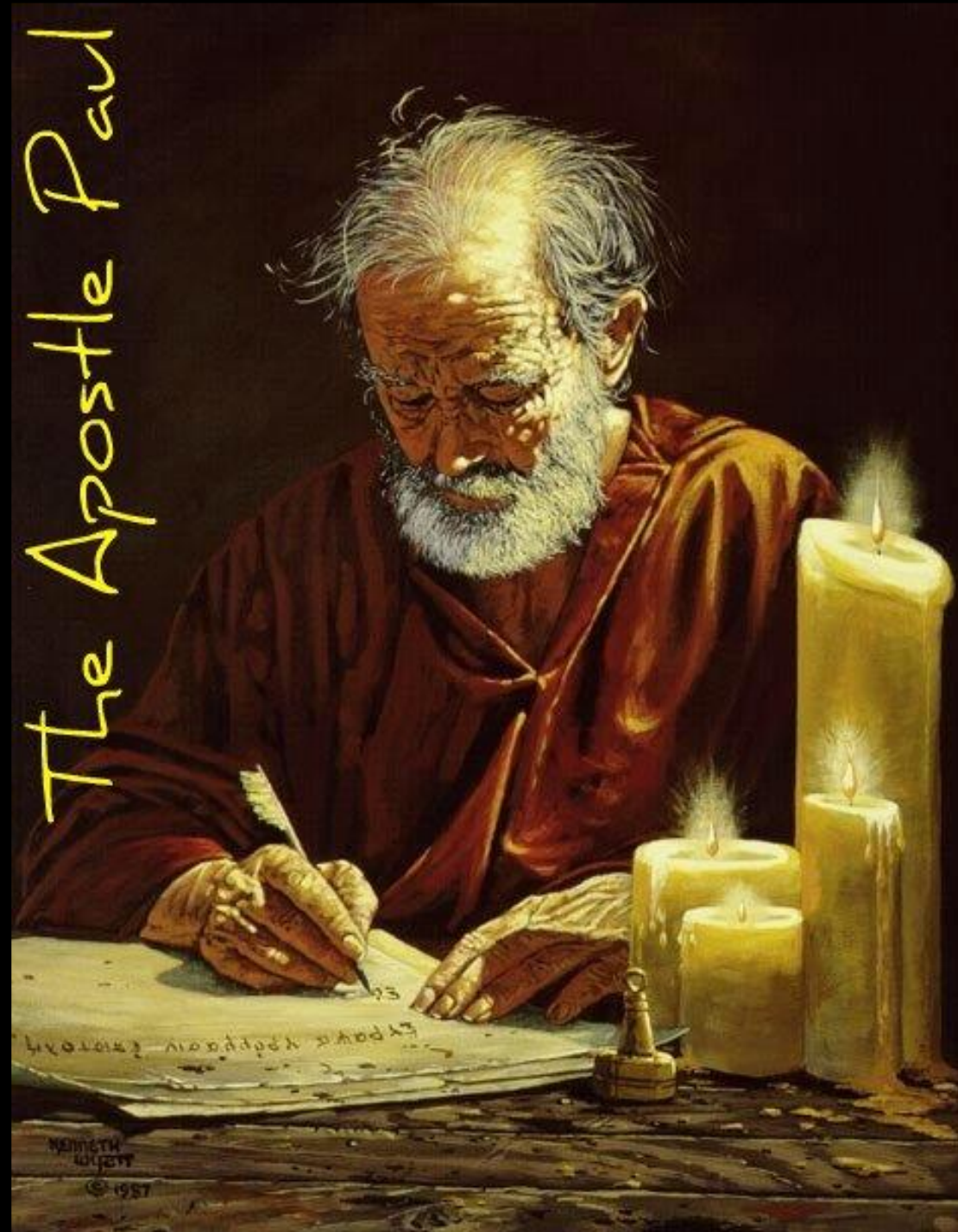
• Results of the Command

• PRODUCTIVE LABOR

- Paul's **race** and **toil** were **correct**.
- He knew that **God** would **reward** his **integrity** and **faithfulness**, for no **genuine labor** is in **vain** in the **Lord** (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- All Christian workers have wondered about the **value** of their **work** in the lives of others, **especially** when those people **persistently refuse** to **follow** their **leadership**.
- They must, however, **finish** their **course** with **joy** and **expectation** (Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who **have loved His appearing**. --- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 ... NKJV

Paul's Valedictory



The Apostle Paul

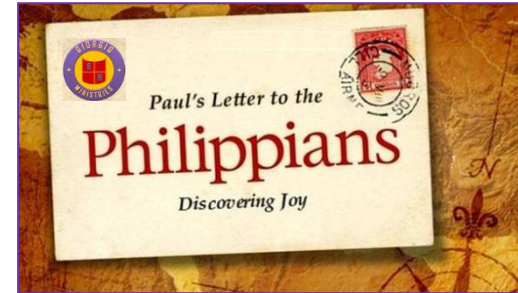
Philippians

"Joy In Christ"

End of Lesson



Instructor: Philip Giorgio
www.GiorgioMinistries.com



Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 8: Three Examples of Humility

[Philippians 2:17-30]

Next Lesson

Next Lesson

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
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- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
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