



Title: Experiencing Philippians

Lesson 3

Read the introduction, the text, Reflect on them and take notes: (10) minutes

Read: Working out your Salvation, or bearing light, comes through Obedience to the Lord working in you.

Philippians 2:12-18 (NASB) ¹² 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; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. ¹⁸ You too, *I urge you*, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

Ask:

1. Paul begins by commending the church in Philippi on their obedience while he [Paul] was there. However, he then states, “but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” What is your understanding of this statement; and its affect on our life?
2. After instructing us (Christians / Believers) to DO ALL THINGS without grumbling or disputing, we are informed the reason is to prove yourself to be blameless and innocent; children of God, above reproach. What does this section of scripture speak to you? How does that look in your day-to-day life?
3. How are we to appear as lights in the world?
4. In verses 17 and 18, Paul discusses his situation (Being imprisoned), and still urges the recipients of the letter to rejoice and share their joy, as he [Paul] is sharing his joy. What impact does that have on how we view (or are supposed to view) the situations we face (or are facing)?

Read: Unselfishness and self-sacrificing, for building up the saints, out of obedience to the Gospel... Comes from Love

Philippians 2:19-30 (NASB) ¹⁹ But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. ²⁰ For I have no one *else* of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child *serv*ing his father. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things *go* with me; ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly. ²⁵ But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; ²⁶ because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned *about you*. ²⁹ Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; ³⁰ because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

Reflection: **1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NASB)** ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Ask:

1. The Apostle Paul begins this section of scripture by informing the Church at Corinth, he will be sending them Timothy; however, Paul's heart can almost be heard breaking when describing why Timothy is the only one able to go (in addition to Paul's imprisonment) which is found in verse 20. What is your understanding of why the characteristics described in the reflections, don't appear prevalent in the Body of Christ? Does our life reflect these characteristics? If not; why not? How would the Body of Christ be impacted if each believer lived this out (acted in this manner)?

Reflection: **2 Timothy 3:10-11 (NASB)** ¹⁰ Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

2. In verse 24, Paul has faith in the Lord for his quick return to the people at Philippi. What is your understanding of why he [Paul] believed (possessed faith) he would return soon?

Reflection: **1 Corinthians 12:26 (NASB)** ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

3. Epaphroditus is described as a fellow worker and soldier (verse 25) who was concerned for the people at Philippi, due to information previously reported about his [Epaphroditus] health. It is interesting to note that this report put him in distress, even though he was already sick to the point of death (verse 27)... Why do you think knowing the people's awareness concerning his sickness caused more distress?
4. What is your understanding of why Epaphroditus coming to those at Philippi was written with joy by Paul? What can we learn, and apply, from this; and how would it impact the Body of Christ if all Christians approached service in this manner?