



THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

Work It Out!

Small Group Study Guide

1. The instruction that Paul gives in 2:12-13 is directly related to the context right before it. This is seen in the way he begins verse 12 with “so then” or “therefore.”
 - In what way does 2:5-11, which describes the mindset Christ had, relate to the instruction “work out your salvation”?
 - Based on the instructions in 2:1-4, what does Paul mean by “work out your salvation”? Be able to support your answer from the text.
 - (a) Working out one’s personal faith and obedience
 - (b) Working out a spiritual health within the local church
 - (c) Combination of personal and corporate obedience
2. “The community of Christians is God’s laboratory that is designed to work out God’s purposes.”¹ Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Can you support your position from 2:1-18?
3. Since 2:12-13 most directly refers to salvation as the overall spiritual health within the local church community, how great of an importance do you place on being in a Discipleship class or small group? Why is it important to be in one of these smaller groups, in order to work out our salvation together, rather than just attending a worship service with no other involvement in the body?

¹Tremper Longman, III, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Revised Edition, vol 12, Ephesians-Philemon* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan Publishing House, 2006), 225.

Don’t Forget:
Discuss the Sermon Notes from this week

4. How is grumbling (complaining) and disputing (criticizing) harmful to:
- The spiritual health of the local church?
 - The corporate witness to the world (lights)?
5. Based on this passage, if we are to be an ACTS church ~ Applying God's Word, Caring for one another, engaging in Transformational worship and Sharing Christ ~ why is it important that we, the community of believers, together be seen before the world as blameless, innocent and above reproach?
- Based on 2:14, what are some types of "testimony" which would turn off unbelievers from being interested in hearing the Gospel?
6. Explain why each of the following are important for those who commit to being part of the ***Fellowship of the Gospel?***
- Working out our salvation (v. 12):
 - Doing all things without complaining (v. 14):
 - Doing all things without criticizing (v. 14):
 - Holding fast to the Word of life (v. 16):
 - Rejoicing in sacrifice and service (v. 17-18):
 - Sharing in sacrifice and service with others (v. 17-18):

BIBLE MEMORY:

*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.*

Philippians 2:12-13

For Next Week:
Prayerfully meditate and study the following: **Philippians 2:19-30**