

## Philippians 2:12-18

### Context

1. *What can you learn about the person or situation to which the letter is written?*
  - a. Separated from author (12)
  - b. Previous track record of obedience (12)
  - c. Perhaps issues with grumbling/questioning (14)
2. *What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?*
  - a. Separated from audience, but has previously been with them (12)
3. *What was the main point of the passage immediately before this one? Are there logical or thematic connections to the passage you are reading?*
  - a. Complete Paul's joy by pursuing unity
  - b. Logical/thematic connections:
    - i. Therefore (12)
    - ii. Obedience (12; 2:8)
    - iii. Salvation (12; work of Christ – 2:8-9)

### Observations

1. *Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there key connecting words (for, therefore, but, because) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?*
  - a. Key connecting words
    - i. Therefore (12)
    - ii. as (12)
    - iii. so now (12)
    - iv. but (12)
    - v. and (12)
    - vi. for (13) – reason/purpose
    - vii. both ... and (13)
    - viii. or (14)
    - ix. that (15)
    - x. and (15)
    - xi. so that (16)
    - xii. Even if (17)
    - xiii. and (17)
    - xiv. Likewise (18)
    - xv. and (18)
2. *What is the main point or points? What supporting points does the author make?*
  - a. **Therefore, my beloved, ... work out your own salvation (12)**
    - i. As you have always obeyed
      1. Not only as in my presence
      2. So now ... but much more in my absence
    - ii. With fear and trembling
    - iii. for it is God who works in you (13)
      1. both to will and to work
      2. for his good pleasure
  - b. **Do all things without grumbling or questioning (14)**

- i. that you may be
    - 1. blameless and innocent (15)
    - 2. children of God
      - a. without blemish
      - b. in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation
      - i. among whom you shine as lights in the world
    - 3. holding fast to the word of life (16)
  - ii. so that ... I may be proud
    - 1. in the day of Christ
    - 2. that I did not run in vain
    - 3. or [that I did not] labor in vain
  - iii. I am glad and rejoice with you all (17)
    - 1. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering
      - a. Upon the sacrificial offering of your faith
    - 2. Likewise, you also should be glad and rejoice with me (18)
3. *What surprises are there in the flow of the argument?*
- a. Verses 17-18 don't seem to fit, perhaps point back to 1:29-30?
    - i. An application of his own personal absence of grumbling and how they should follow suit?

## **Meaning**

1. *How does this text relate to other parts of the book?*
  - a. God's work begun in them (2:13; 1:6) and completed at the day of Christ (2:16; 1:6)
  - b. Paul's joy for the Philippians (1:4; 2:2; 2:18)
  - c. Obedience (2:12; 2:8)
  - d. Their salvation and the gospel (2:12; 1:5, 27)
  - e. The resulting glory of God (2:13; 1:11; 2:11)
2. *How does this passage relate to Jesus?*
  - a. Christ is the one who accomplished the salvation which they are to work out
  - b. The day of Christ[’s return] as a destination (16)
3. *What does this teach you about God?*
  - a. God's enablement of his children to desire and to live as he wants them to live
4. *How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?*
  - a. Live out God's work in you by not grumbling or complaining

## **Application**

1. *How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?*
  - a.
2. *Is there some attitude you need to change?*
  - a.
3. *How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?*
  - a.