

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Shining as the Light*Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 2:14-18

REVIEW

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

In 2:12-13 Paul encourages the Philippians church to obey as they have always done. With a tender pastoral tone, pastor Paul reminds the Philippian church to work out their salvation (not for their salvation) as God works in them for his good pleasure, which results in their pleasure as well.

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 2:1-13
2. Why is it important to have "fear and trembling" in our lives as Christians? How does this connect to obedience?
3. Looking at the things Paul calls the Philippians to in his letter, where are some areas you are encouraged and/or convicted to work out your salvation?
4. Identify some things that God willed in us as a church? Worked in us as a church? Give thanks.
5. How does it move you to know that God is doing all of this for his good pleasure?

STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Philippians 2:14-18.
2. What does the inclusion of "all things" mean? How does this little phrase impact our understanding and interpretation of these verses?
3. What does it mean to "grumble" or "dispute" or "complain"?
4. Why do you think Paul would address grumbling and complaining here?
5. Read Numbers 15:1-15. What are the Israelites complaining about here? Why does God treat grumbling so seriously?
6. What are some things we are prone to grumble or complain about? In our jobs? In our church? In our family? Why?

7. Notice the “that” in verse 15 – it tells us why we should not grumble. What reason does Paul give?
8. How would the Philippians (and us) “shine as lights in the world” by not grumbling and disputing?
9. What does “holding fast to the word of life” have to do with grumbling?
10. Why would Paul have the right to be proud of the Philippians? Didn’t he just say to not do anything from pride? What’s the difference in being proud and being prideful?
11. What do you learn about Paul’s love for the Philippians in verses 17-18? How does this encourage and challenge you? What sacrifices do you need to make to strengthen the faith of others followers of Jesus?
12. How are verses 14-18 related to “working out your own salvation”?
13. General Bible study questions:
 - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Where do you need to ask God to work in you so you can work out your salvation?