

February 15/16, 2003

Study Questions
Experiencing Joy: A Study in Philippians
Lights in the World
Philippians 2:12-18
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Brainstorm everything you believe the Bible teaches is true of you as a Christian. Write down your answers.

2. Do any of those truths apply to a non-Christian?

3. Given your answers on the first two questions, list 5 descriptive words that capture the difference between what is true of the Christian versus the non-Christian.

4. If the difference between you and the non-Christians around you is so radical, there should be clear evidence of that difference fleshed out in daily life. What would the non-Christians around you point to as that which sets you apart from them?

Bible Study

1. Philippians 2:12-18 continues the flow of thought from 1:27 concerning “conduct worthy of the gospel.” Review what we’ve studied so far from 1:27-2:11. What is conduct worthy of the gospel?

2. Notice 2:12 begins with “So then,” meaning it’s a response from what Christ has done for us, to have the attitude in us that was obvious in Him. Our response to Him is to “work out our salvation...” What does this mean?

What is the difference between justification and salvation? (See Romans 5:9 for help).

3. How do you reconcile Phil. 1:6 and Galatians 3:3 with the command to work out your salvation? According to 2:12,13 what is God’s part and what is our part?

What does this mean, practically speaking, on a daily basis?

4. Why do we work out our salvation with “fear and trembling?” What does this mean?

5. According to 2:14 we are to work out our salvation (do all things) without grumbling or disputing. Is grumbling a serious sin? Why or why not? Do we take it seriously? (See 1 Cor. 10:10,11) Why would grumbling be contrary to the truth we proclaim?
6. As children of God we are “lights” in a crooked and perverse generation. According to 2:15 what is necessary for our light to truly shine?

Define “above reproach” in the context of what we’ve studied so far in 1:27-2:15.

7. What is the source of Paul’s joy in 2:17,18?

How does this line up with the source of Paul’s joy from 1:3-26?

If advancement of the gospel is the source of Paul’s joy, then what would be joy “killers” —according to 1:27-2:18?

Application

1. What is there in your life that God has revealed to you through Philippians that needs to change, in order to live worthy of the gospel? Share that with the group.
2. How can the group help you address this area of your life?
3. What commitment should group members make to one another if we are all going to truly live out the truth of Philippians 1:27-2:18?

Are you willing to let others speak into your life in areas where you may have a “blind spot?” If not, what will it take to get to that place?