

August 24, 2014

## The Believer's Responsibility – Part 2

### Philippians 2:12-16

#### All Stand and Read Scripture

#### **Philippians 2:12-16**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> 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; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing; <sup>15</sup> so that you will lprove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you lappear as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding lfast 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.

#### Prayer

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

The relationship between the power and grace of God and the responsibility of the believer in living out his Christian life has often been misunderstood.

Our Christian life is not just a matter of passive trust in the power and grace of God. When we accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior, we transferred our citizenship from the crooked and perverse generation of this world to a citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven. This change in citizenship gave us a new set of laws (or rules) to live by.

Now, in verses 12 – 16 Paul gives us the process whereby believers can become more like Jesus as they live out their Christian faith.

I want you to listen carefully here, the Lord expects His people to grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Let me emphasize this, God DEMANDS that we must grow in the likeness of Christ. It is the desire of God that we are conformed into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The death of Christ on the cross was more than just pardon for our sins. As wonderful as that is, His death on the cross is more than pardon, it is POWER! His grace **empowers** us to live out our faith. God the Father gave His only

begotten Son to die for the forgiveness of His people. Christ paid that debt fully, perfectly, and completely.

The Father GAVE, and the son PAID. Because of that, those of us who have accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior have been “blood bought” and have become a possession of the Lord.

## **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a <sup>[a]</sup>temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from <sup>[b]</sup>God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

You have been bought and purchased by the blood of Jesus on Calvary’s cross.

As we look at verses 12 – 16, I want to look at ***The Believer’s Responsibility***.

These scriptures point out four things concerning the believer’s life that I want to bring to your attention.

Last week we examined the first point found in verses 12-13: The Believer’s Work.

Today we will look at the final three points:

V14-15 The Believer’s Walk

V15-16 The Believer’s Talk

V16 The Believer’s Glory

First, let’s summarize last week’s message on The Believers Work.

### **BODY:**

#### **I. The Believer’s Work (Summary)**

These verses point out the believer’s work or the responsibility of the believer. Paul points out three things:

##### **A. The example of our work.**

Paul tells us in verses 6-11 that if you need an example of how to be obedient and live a life of servitude, then we need not look any further than the example of Jesus Christ.

- Christ gave up heaven in obedience to God’s will.
- He became man to serve man in obedience to God’s will.
- He died on the cross for our sins in obedience to the God’s will.

Just as Jesus was obedient, even to the cross, we too are to be obedient.

Not only does Paul show Christ as **The Example of Our Work**, but he also Exhorts us for Our Work.

## **B. Exhortation for Our Works**

### **Philippians 2:12b**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

The “**fear and trembling**” does not refer to “shaking” before God like He is a cruel master, but more toward a “reverence” or “respect”.

A **reverence** for God will always result in a **commitment** to God.

A **commitment** to God will always result in **works** for God.

## **C. Enabling Power for Our Works**

### **Philippians 2:13**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Before you were saved, God worked **ON** you. We received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit when we were saved. Now that you are saved, God works **IN** you through His Holy Spirit.

In **Philippians 2:14-15**, Paul goes from our Work to our Walk.

## **II. The Believer’s Walk.**

### **A. We are to Walk in Obedience.**

#### **Philippians 2:14**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing

Paul tells us that we are to do all things without “**grumbling or disputing**”.

What does it mean to grumble?

Basically, it means to complain. It is a word that has to do with **murmuring**.

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Remember in the Old Testament when the Israelites were in bondage and they complained? “We don’t have our freedom. We have to work so hard.”

God takes them out and they arrive at the Red Sea. Pharaoh chases them in their chariots and they start complaining. “Boy, I wish we were back!”

God parts the sea and delivers them and everything seems to be OK for a while until they hit Marah where the water was bitter. They grumbled to Moses “What shall we drink?”

God had Moses throw a tree in the waters and the waters became sweet.

Then they end up in the wilderness of Sin and had no food and began to grumble. “We wish we were back in Egypt where we had an abundance of meat and bread”.

So, God sent quails and manna for their food.

Because of their disobedience and complaining, they spent 40 years in the wilderness.

Paul says in verse 14, do all things without complaining. He also says to do all things without disputing. Disputing means “**arguing**”. This is what all of us should be working on.

We should all know that it dishonors God when we complain and argue, especially, when we complain and argue among each other.

This attitude applies to God also. When God convicts us to do his work, we are to obey without arguing or complaining. We are not to try to change His mind. We are not to complain that we are not equipped to do His will. Our obligation is simple, we are to trust and obey the Lord and let Him work through us.

## **B. We are to Walk in Opposition to the World.**

### **Philippians 2:15**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

so that you will <sup>la</sup>prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you <sup>lb</sup>appear as <sup>lc</sup>lights in the world,

A “**blameless and innocent**” believer is a sincere believer. They are unmixed with the world. Their mind is focused on Christ and their convictions are unwavering. Paul is not talking about sinless perfection. He is talking about sincerity.

We don't act one way on Sunday and act another way during the rest of the week.

Paul tells us that we are living in a distorted, twisted, and evil world. We are to hold fast to the teachings in the Word of God, knowing that only through God's Word can we know the true meaning of what this life is all about. The wisdom and knowledge of the world has no eternal value.

When we WALK with Christ, we should try to become more and more like Christ.

### **Ephesians 4:22-24**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>22</sup> that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old <sup>[a]</sup>self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and put on the new <sup>[b]</sup>self, which <sup>[c]</sup>in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

God wants us to change. When we live a changed life, people will see the change in us.

Not only are we to walk the walk, but also we must talk the talk!

## **III. The Believer's Talk.**

### **Philippians 2:15b-16**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

among whom you appear as <sup>[c]</sup>lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding <sup>[d]</sup>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.

#### **A. We are to Shine.**

Paul tells us that we are to be "**lights in the world**". We are to be proclaiming Christ to the world. By being obedient to Christ, people can see that we are "different". They should see Christ through us.

Here is how Paul explains it in

### **Ephesians 5:8-13**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and

righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup> [a]trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even [b]expose them; <sup>12</sup> for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup> But all things become visible when they are [c]exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

One of the ways that we invite people to Christ is that they see that we are changing.

**Something to consider:** For some people, we are the only Bible they will ever read. Some people never read the scriptures. You are the only Christian that they know. They judge Christianity based upon what they see in you! They come to conclusions about Christ based on you!

Not only are we to shine, but we are also to share.

## **B. We are to Share.**

Notice verse 16.

“holding [d]fast the word of life,”

In the context here in verse 16 we find that it is by "*holding fast the word of life*" that we will be able to fulfill all of the commands of this passage. If we hold fast the word of life,

- We will conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.
- We will be of the same mind, same love, united in spirit and intent on one purpose with other believers.
- We will do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit and humbly consider others as more important than ourselves.
- We will look out for the interests of others instead of just our own.
- We will have the attitude of Jesus Christ who humbled Himself to pay the sacrifice for our sins.
- To the degree that we hold fast the word of life, we will do all things without grumbling or disputing while proving ourselves to be blameless and innocent children of God who are above reproach and who are lights in this dark world we live in.
- If we hold fast the word of life we will also be able to rejoice even as Paul did in what God is doing regardless of our personal circumstances.

We are to **talk** the faith and **share** the faith with others. This verse is not for preachers only. It is not for church leaders only. This verse is for ALL Christians. This is your responsibility also. We have all been bought with a price. Not just the preacher and the church leaders, but all of us who have accepted Christ in their lives.

Paul tells us to do the work, walk the walk and talk the talk. If we do that there will be a time when those who ministered to you will rejoice.

Where does that come from? This is the fourth point. See the last part of verse 16.

## IV. The Believer's Glory.

### Philippians 2:-16b

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

so that in the day of Christ

This is the day when believers will gather around the Judgment Seat of Christ after Christ's second coming as referred to in chapter 1 verses 6 and 10.

so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory.

Paul says to the Philippians, that if they will stay focused on change, there will come a day when I will see you in heaven. We will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ and we will all rejoice because you were changed and lived like Christ.

Then he continues:

### Philippians 2:-16b

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Paul says all my work will be worth it when I see you at the Judgment Seat.

All of us can share that experience when we serve the Lord.

### John 15:5

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

How GREAT will it be when we are able to see the **fruits of our labor** standing before God. **What glory that will be!**

### CONCLUSION:

Far too many Christians today, falsely believe that the Christian life makes no demands on those who claim to be Christian. They feel that "being saved", going to church, and living a good moral life is sufficient for their salvation. That is not what the scriptures teach us.

Our Christian life must not just be a **passive trust in His grace**. God calls for an **active** obedience.

A True Faith will Yield Good WORKS.

A True Faith will WALK with the Lord.  
A True Faith will TALK about the Lord.  
A True Faith will GLORY at Christ's second coming.

### **Titus 1:16**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

We should ask God to give us the desire and ability to change. We are not our own. We have been purchased with Christ's own blood on Calvary. We must submit ourselves to Him and let Him work through us.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, this is your opportunity to come forward and let Him know that you are ready to become a part of His family.

We are also here with open arms, if you would like to identify yourself as part of this family of God in the Greenwood Christian church.

He is Lord, He is Lord.  
He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.