

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: September 12, 2021
Philippians 2:12-18

1. What does Paul say about the Philippians in verse 12?
 - a. They were the kind of Christians that were always up and down and made a pastor worry about their eternal future and whether they would remain faithful when he was away.
 - b. They have always obeyed.
 - c. They obeyed not only in Paul's presence, but also in his absence.

2. Can your Christian walk be described this way? Yes_____ No_____ Explain. _____

3. What does Paul tell these faithful Christians who have obeyed even in his absence, in verses 12-13?
 - a. You've been doing so well and working so hard, why don't you just relax for a little while.
 - b. Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.
 - c. God works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose (just in case you thought you were in it alone, you were tired, or you didn't even feel like you wanted to do the right thing anymore!)

4. What does Paul tell them (and us) in verse 14? _____

5. What, according to verse 15, will be the result of our work 'without grumbling'?
 - a. ...we may become blameless and pure...
 - b. ...we may become "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."
 - c. ...we will shine among them (this generation) like stars in the sky!

6. What might this suggest are characteristics of this "warped and crooked generation" (and us, even if we do the right thing but are always grumbling and arguing) that we should not take on if we are to be blameless and pure and stand out from those around us?
 - a. It seems like if you do the right thing, it's the right thing regardless of how you do it!
 - b. Grumbling... Selfishness...
 - c. People who do what they are supposed for the applause of men...like doing the right thing only when Paul is with them...
 - d. It seems like people must do the right thing for the wrong reasons and resent it because they don't get credit or wish they didn't have to do it...when God really wants to change our heart and desires and work in us both "to will and to act" (see also Psalm 37:4)!

7. What is Paul's personal stake in their obedience, according to verses 16-17?
 - a. None! What does he care? It's their lives.
 - b. He admits to the human desire to see his ministry mean something in the end and that he might be able to "boast" on the day of Christ in the fruit of his ministry.
 - c. He alludes to feelings of failure or waste that he might feel if those for whom he had sacrificed so much did not continue in the faith.
 - d. He remembers also that if he is poured out and his effort seems wasted, just an offering with no fruit, that will be ok too.