

## COMPLETED LISTENER'S GUIDE

### Session 4: "Joy in Obedience" Philippians 2:12-30

Review from last week (Philippians 2:5-11)

Jesus gave up his **STATUS**, his **RIGHTS**, and His **LIFE**.

Why was Jesus able to do it?

1. He had **CONFIDENCE** in the Father
2. Everything He did was to **GLORIFY** the Father.

Our new nature, received upon our decision to trust Christ, finds its deepest delight and contentment and greatest joy in **OBEDIENCE** to God and sacrificial **LOVE** for one another.

Philippians 2:12-18

What is God asking us to do?

1. Work out our salvation (v. 12-13)
  - a. Our salvation refers to two things: our **JUSTIFICATION** and our **SANCTIFICATION**.
  - b. Justification: the **CANCELLING** of our sin (completed by Christ)
  - c. Sanctification: the **CONQUERING** of our sin (sustained effort, empowered by Christ)
2. The link between the cross and my conquered sin is a Holy-Spirit empowered **WILL**.

Scripture that helps us see the connection between the "cancelling" and the "conquering"

1. In the death of Christ we **DIED**: "We have been united with him in a death like his" (Romans 6:5), **THEREFORE**: "You also must consider yourselves dead to sin" (Romans 6:11) "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body" (Romans 6:12)
2. In the death of Christ we were **BOUGHT**: "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) **THEREFORE**: "Glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:20)

3. In the death of Christ we were **FORGIVEN**: “God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32) **THEREFORE**: “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another” (Ephesians 4:32)

The only sin we can defeat is a **FORGIVEN** sin—and Christ has forgiven them all!

Practical steps to “kill sin” in my life:

- A — **AVOID**
- N — Say **NO!** within five seconds.
- T — **TURN** to something excellent (go-to verse, song, etc.).
- H — **HOLD** the excellent thing in the mind until the dirty thing is gone.
- E — **ENJOY** the greater pleasure of the blood-bought promises of God.
- M — **MOVE ON** on to meaningful Christ-exalting activity.

On “fear and trembling”:

*“Why should there be ‘fear and trembling’ as I attack my sin and bring about salvation from self-pity (or anger, bitterness, envy, lust, etc)? The reason given in the text is not a threat. It’s a gift. Work and will to kill your sin, and do it with fear and trembling, because God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, redeemer, justifier, sustainer, Father, lover is so close to you that your working and willing are his working and willing. Tremble at this breathtaking thought. God Almighty is in you. God is the one in you willing. God is the one in you working. My “continuous, sustained, strenuous” effort is not only being carried out in the very presence of all-holy God, but is the very continuous, sustained, strenuous effort of God himself. I am not waiting for a miracle. I am acting a miracle. My action is God’s action in fighting my sin. My willing is God’s willing.”*  
–John Piper

2. Next, God asks us to do all things without **GRUMBLING** or **COMPLAINING** (v. 14)
  - a. Filter #1: The first ear to hear the expression of our hearts should always be **CHRIST**.

- b. Filter #2: Ask “what's at **STAKE?**”
- c. Express the feelings of our heart in a God-honoring way (one example: Matthew 18)
- d. Filter #3: Am I venting with the expectation of being **ENCOURAGED?**

What will be the results of our obedience?

1. Set ourselves apart from our **GENERATION** (v. 15)
2. Hold fast to the Word of Life (v. 16)
3. Poured out as an **OFFERING** (v. 17)
4. **REJOICE!** (v. 18)

Philippians 2:19-30

Timothy's Example:

1. **HUMILITY** (v. 20-21)
2. **SERVICE** (v. 22)

Epaphroditus' Example

1. **SERVICE** to Paul (v. 25)
2. **SUFFERING** well (v. 26-27)
3. **HUMILITY**—nearly giving his life for the work of Christ (v. 28)

God has given us the perfect example of Christ, and the human examples of men like Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus to show us what it looks like to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling.” That means knowing that God is at work within us—the same God who took on flesh, who cancelled our sin by His death on the cross, and empowers and fights with me to conquer sin in my life: He is at work within me! And so I find that my obedience, my sustained effort to glorify God with the life Christ purchased for me, is the key to my joy.

## Topics for Discussion:

1. God isn't asking us to earn our salvation in Philippians 2:12-13—how would you describe in your own words what He is asking us to do?
2. What was your first reaction to reading, “fear and trembling?” How did tonight's study help you better understand what God is saying to us?
3. As a table, use A-N-T-H-E-M to talk through how you could practically deal with a particular sin, such as gossip, self-pity, or anger.
4. Why do you think we're so addicted to complaining? How do you think the “filters” will help you practically deal with the sin of grumbling?
5. Timothy, Epaphroditus, and Paul are 3 earthly examples of what it means to “work out your salvation.” What about their lives impacts you the most?
6. Share any insights you gained on Philippians 2:12-30 during your personal time of study throughout the week.

## This Week:

1. Philippians 3 is packed with powerful verses to commit to memory. Read the whole chapter in one sitting, and then choose a verse to memorize that's especially meaningful for you.
2. Commit to praying Philippians 1:9-11 for one person in your life, 3 times a week throughout this study.
3. Read and study Philippians 3. Choose a few verses each day. Journal: What do I observe? What does it mean? How does it apply to my circumstances?