



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, December 19, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“Struggling Well: By Our Effort or Not?”

Philippians 2:12-18

1. Work out your own salvation, but God is the energizer.
(Philippians 2:12-13)
2. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, by holding fast to the word of life. (Philippians 2:14-16)

3. Be glad and rejoice together, following the example of spiritual leaders. (Philippians 2:17-18)

Table Talk

- 1) How does Paul address the Philippians in verse 12? Why might that be important? What comes to mind when you hear the command, “work out your own salvation”? How much of this section of verses 12-18 is addressed to individuals and how much is addressed to the church as a whole? What is the challenge of verse 12? What is the comfort of verse 13?
- 2) How does verse 14’s command compare with verse 3’s command? In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different? What examples of grumbling or disputing seem to be problematic today? What are some ways that you keep yourself from grumbling or disputing?
- 3) What is the same about the environment that the Philippians lived in and the environment that we live in? (v. 15) In a crooked and twisted world, what does Paul say should characterize believers? (v. 15) Do you think that the world sees Christians as blameless, innocent, children of God, without blemish, and shining as lights in the world? Why or why not? How can our church shine as lights in the world? What examples of light shining in darkness have you seen recently?
- 4) Who or what is “the word of life”? What motivation does Paul give for holding fast to the word of life? Why might doing something so that another person could be “proud” actually be a good motivation? How does that work in family life? How does that work in church life? (v. 16)
- 5) Why can Paul rejoice, even if he is experiencing suffering? How do we know that Paul believes that the Philippians are suffering too? What does he want them to do just as he is doing? How can we rejoice and be glad, even when we feel the burden of the sacrifices that we make for belonging to Christ? (vv. 17-18)