

Sermon Reflections

A Manner of Life Worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:12-18)

Guest Teacher: Bill Street, Grace Elder-Pastor

Summary: Focused on Christ's example before us, we must daily put on Christlikeness and follow Him.

1. To win others to Christ you must first have Christ in your life.

- When you receive Christ as your Savior, you become a child of God. You become beloved of God. God regards you as esteemed, as a treasure, bought with an expensive price. Just take a moment right now to say, "thank you, Lord!"
- In contemplating this term "beloved" (used above) – we also think of a related term used in the Scripture, "chosen ones." In the New Testament, especially in the writings of Paul, this term "chosen ones" means those who are led by the Spirit of God and thus are closely related to God. What are your thoughts on being a "chosen one," beloved by God? Take a minute to note some of your benefits from this relationship; some of your "near term" (that is, earthly) benefits; and what are some of the "long term" benefits that you already know?

2. When indwelt by the Christ, you are a new creature. You will look, respond, react ... differently than those around you who do not know Christ.

- Philippians 1:6 reads: "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." This verse indicates that God will bring about "the good work" (spiritual growth) in you. Paul restates this thought at Philippians 2:13 (... for it is God who works in you ...) why then would Paul write at Philippians 2:14 (and following) that the believer must take certain actions? Please explain these seemingly dual responsibilities.

3. "Putting on" Christlikeness

- In a parallel passage (which was used to understand Philippians 2), specifically Colossians 3:12, Paul commands to "put on" these 'Christlike' qualities. What does "put on" mean to you? In your thoughts, what is the best way (the best analogy or example or metaphor or simile ... (you choose) that works for you to faithfully think of putting on these Christlike qualities in your every day life? What works for you here?
- Do you ever think about the fact you are "working out your salvation"? Could this (or, could these thoughts) be an encouragement to you? How would you explain this concept of "working out your salvation" to a brand new believer; a "baby Christian" with little or no knowledge of the Bible?

4. "The Christlikeness part"

- Yes, we live under God's great grace, but, IF YOU WERE being graded on the qualities of Christlikeness demonstrated in your life, on which [in your humble opinion] qualities do you think you would receive a high grade? AND, on which qualities do you think, again, in your opinion, is there more improvement (attention) needed? [This question can also be asked, "Where are you weak?"] So, how do you improve? Respond with a list of steps that, if followed, will help you (or anyone else) to improve.