

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Working Under the Father* (Philippians 2:12-18)

**Summary:** Trust your Father who is at work to save you. Humble yourself in obedience to His work and will.

### **1. Don't Give Up. God Is at Work. (vv. 12-13)**

- Paul exhorts the Philippians, who were already obedient, to continue in that mindset: “Therefore, as you have always obeyed.” Why do we need a reminder like that? Why does the Gospel demand obedience? But what if I don't feel like it?
- What does it mean to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”?
  - Aren't we justified by faith alone? Romans 4:4-5 would contradict that, wouldn't it? And what about Philippians 3:9? *Who* is really at work in our salvation?
  - And yet, what is *our* responsibility or work in salvation, if any?

### **2. Don't Complain. You Are His Witnesses. (vv. 14-16)**

- What has God done in the past with people who grumbled and complained? See Numbers 14:11-12. What does God's response teach us about the seriousness of grumbling? Do you take your own complaints that seriously? Why or why not?
- What kind of impact does our grumbling have against our witness to God? What do our complaints say about our God? How do our misgivings slander God?
- Looking to verse 16, how can we fight our complaining attitude? What work or role can God's Word have in discouraging complaints, and encouraging thanksgivings? How can you help your Fellowship Group in gratitude by the Word of Life?

### **3. Don't Regret. His Work Is Worth It. (vv. 17-18)**

- Paul told the Philippians that even if he is poured out like a drink offering, he will still find joy in serving them, and by extension, Jesus Christ. Why could Paul make that statement?
- Where was Paul's joy? Rick gave the analogy of a parent on Christmas morning. What was his main point about this picture?
- Rick also said that even though living the Christian life isn't easy, it's still worth it. Is that the way you feel? If not, what do you need to do to see that change?
- What could you do this week to ‘make Christ look really great’?