

Lights in the World

July 15, 2012

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

Vol. 2 Num. 28

Core Competency:

Self-control- I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:11-13)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Introduction

Tony Campolo, in his book, *You Can Make a Difference*, tells this story. Two veterans were traveling on a train in England when one of the men was gripped by a seizure that caused his body to violently convulse. His friend immediately jumped up to attend him. He removed his own jacket, placed it under his friend's head, and eased him to the floor. He dabbed sweat from his friend's brow and shielded his limbs from injury. Later, he explained his actions to a fellow-passenger.

"My buddy and I here were in Vietnam together, and we were both wounded in the same battle. I had bullets in both my legs and he caught one in his shoulder. For some reason the helicopter that was supposed to come for us never came to pick us up. My friend here picked me up and he carried me for three and a half days out of that jungle. The Viet Cong were sniping at us the whole way.

Understand, he was in more agony than I was. Repeatedly I begged him to drop me and save himself, but he wouldn't let me go. He got me out of that jungle, mister. He saved my life. I don't know HOW he did it and I don't know WHY he did it...but he did. Well, four years ago, I found out that he had this epileptic condition, so I sold my house in New York, took what money I had, and came over here to take care of him." Then he looked at his friend and said, "You see, mister, after what he did for me, there isn't anything I wouldn't do for him."

As Christians, our response to Jesus' death should be the same. At great cost to Himself, Jesus came to earth, found us where we lay, wounded and in mortal danger, in the jungle of our sin. He stooped down, gathered us into His arms, and carried us to safety. In the process, he was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our sins, and willingly endured unimaginable suffering for us.

This Week

As you study this week, consider how to respond to this gift of salvation. When you were saved, you received a treasure of inestimable value. Don't be satisfied with partial benefits, when it comes to your relationship with God. Allow God free access into every area of your life. As you do, He will work in your heart both to desire and bring forth fruit in your life.

Will you, like the soldier, say, "After what He did for me, there is nothing I wouldn't do for Him"?

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Philippians 2:12-18

12 So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose.

14 Do everything without grumbling and arguing,

15 so that you may be blameless and pure,

children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world.

16 Hold firmly to the message of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run or labor for nothing.

17 But even if I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

18 In the same way you should also be glad and rejoice with me.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. Verse 12 begins with "So then" or in the NIV, "Therefore." To what does this phrase refer? In light of this, what does Paul say that our response should be?
2. a) The Greek word translated as "work out" was used in Paul's day to refer to a farmer working out his field in order to reap the greatest harvest possible. In light of this information, try and explain what you think that Paul meant by "work out your own salvation," including what that might look like in your life.

b) What does "fear and trembling" have to do with this process?
3. According to verse 13, from where does the power to "work out your salvation" come? How can you allow God to enable you both to desire and to work out His good purpose?
4. a) What is the attitude behind grumbling or complaining and how does grumbling or complaining affect both the individual believer (who is grumbling) and the world in which that believer circulates?

b) If you have experienced a real hurt or injustice, could grumbling or complaining be appropriate? Explain your answer.

c) Reflect on your relationships, your job, your church, and your home. Think about who or what has been bothering you. What are some practical steps that you can take to eliminate grumbling or complaining and the attitudes from which they arise?

5. a) Paul uses the simile “shine like stars” in verse 15. How is this a good illustration of an effective Christian life?

b) Give examples of how you might shine like star(s) in your world.

Sermon Notes:

③LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God’s word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

How can your group help to work out each other's salvation? (See Galatians 6:1-5; Hebrews 3:12-13; Hebrews 10:24-25; James 5:16, 19-20.)

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish