

# JESUS STRONG IN GOSPEL OBEDIENCE

Part 5 of Jesus Strong. Philippians 2:12-18.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 20, 2024.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

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

13 For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to 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 by holding firm to the word 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 sacrificial 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.

## GOSPEL OBEDIENCE

**The passage is about obedience.**

- 2:5-11 is about Jesus' obedience.
- Jesus obeyed the Father to the point of death on a cross.
- Therefore, we should obey - 2:12.
- In the immediate context, we should obey Paul's teaching on unity in 1:27-2:11. By extension, we should obey God and the Bible.

## **THE NECESSITY OF OBEDIENCE - verse 12**

**After finding Jesus as our God and Savior, we must follow him.**

Philippians 2:12 (CSB) Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

- Jesus obeyed. That's what the "therefore" is there for.
- Salvation has implications and results: "work out your salvation."

**We do NOT work FOR our salvation. .**

- Jesus did all the work. We have nothing to add.
- Ephesians 2:8-9 (CSB) For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — 9 not from works, so that no one can boast. Division dishonors the Lord who makes us one.
- We are saved by grace alone, apart from works.

**We work OUT our salvation.**

- We live out its implications by obeying Jesus and the Bible.
- Gospel grace results in gospel obedience.

## **HOW IS OBEDIENCE POSSIBLE? - verses 13-14**

**God is "working in us both to will and to work..."**

- We work out what God works in.
- It's sort of like an electric bike. I peddle, the motor powers up.
- When I'm struggling to obey, I pray, "Lord, I can't, but you can."
- Whatever the Lord command, he gives us the will and way to obey.

## **WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF OBEDIENCE? - verses 15-17**

### **Gospel obedience results in gospel advance.**

- God's obedient children stand out from the crowd and shine like the sun in a dark world.
- This opens doors to share the gospel.
- The world is dark. The devil's war against humanity has been exposed.
- It's Christ or chaos.
- Obedient Christians offer light in the darkness, truth in the lies, hope in the despair. We make Christ known and attractive.

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

## Review

- Review the October 20 study guide (<https://www.famousgod.com/teaching-notes>)
- What were the highlights of the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
  - S: Sins to confess
  - P: Promises to claim
  - E: Examples to follow
  - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
  - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

## Discuss

- For me, the best part of the passage is the assurance that God is working in us to will and to do his good purpose. Do you find this reassuring? How does it help you obey? Share some examples. I recommend reading John Piper's article about this at <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-find-strength-in-the-strength-of-god>.
- Share any personal experience of obedience to Jesus opening doors for the gospel. Was this part of you becoming a Christian?
- What would you say to a professing Christian who thinks obedience is optional and unimportant?

## Prayers

- Pray for the Cornerstone family to shine like the sun in a dark world.
- Pray for the Cornerstone Church - people, volunteers, staff, leaders.