

# Studies in Philippians

## Lesson IV

**Text:** Philippians 2:12-18

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup>Do everything without complaining or arguing,<sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe <sup>16</sup>as you hold out<sup>[a]</sup> the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. <sup>17</sup>But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup>So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

### Footnotes

(a) or “hold on to”

# Questions for Discussion

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1. The statement “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” is understood by some believers to be evidence that salvation must be “worked for”—in other words, earned. Why is this interpretation incorrect, according to the text itself (vv. 12-13)?
2. What do you suppose it means for God to “to will and to act according to his good purpose” (vs. 13)?
  - a. Paul expounds upon this principle in Romans chapter 8:1-14 (read).
  - b. What is it that God wants to accomplish in you, individually? In the church, collectively?
3. Do you think God means for us to take verse 14 seriously in this congregation? Why is our ability to work cohesively as a church critical to God’s good purpose for us? (vs. 15)
4. We have a responsibility to our generation—what is it? (vv. 15b-16a)
5. Paul refers to his “boasting” on “the day of Christ.” What is Paul referring to? (vs. 16b)
6. Paul was willing to be “poured out like a drink offering” (vs. 17). How was this meant to inspire them to “sacrifice and service” (cf. vs. 17; Numbers 15:4-11)?
7. What happens when God’s people come together with singleness of purpose? (vs. 18)