



# **Maintaining Joy in an Upside-Down World**

**Sermon #6**

**Philippians 2:14–18**

**Sermon Study Guide**

**February 14, 2021**

## Review

Last week, we covered Philippians 2:12-13 in the message - “work out your salvation” – “for it is God at work in you” - we work it out, God works it in. The process of sanctification and becoming more like Christ involves a partnering with the believer and the Holy Spirit (who lives within us). The Holy Spirit works in us and we work that out.

In Philippians 2:14, Paul gives us instructions as to how we as believers can shine like lights in a dark world (very pertinent in our world today).

### **Read Philippians 2:14-18**

- Why does Paul tell the Philippians not to grumble or have disputes among themselves and others? Why is it so important to Paul that our attitudes match our actions? (2:14-15)
  
- Are you shining brightly or are you clouded by complaining and arguing? When people look at your

life do, they see the joy of Christ shining in your life or darkness hanging over you? What can snuff out your light? (vv.14-15)

**Note:**

So simple, but so difficult—here is the answer as to how Christians are to handle themselves during family conflict, dissension in the workplace, the political divide in America, etc. Do not grumble or argue, and you will shine like a “star”.

- How would holding fast to the “word of life” enable the Philippians to remain joyful as they obeyed God? (v.16)
  
- Why was it important not to run the race in vain? (vv.14-16)

**Definition:** “In vain” – uselessly, to no avail, without purpose -a waste of time, effort, and resources.

- What was Paul saying to the Philippians in verses 17-18? Are we willing to say the same?

**Definition:** “Drink Offering” – after an animal was offered as a sacrifice to the Lord and when it had been consumed by the fire, wine would be poured over the animal sacrifice as sort of a flavoring of the animal’s sacrifice of its life. Jesus’ life and blood were poured out as a drink offering to God for our sins.

Paul here sees his life and ministry as a drink offering to God – a pouring out himself as a flavoring to the sacrifice of Christ for the sake of the Gospel.

Paul sacrificially laid down his life so the Philippians could sacrificially lay down their lives with joy for each other.

### **Read Romans 12:1**

- From Romans, explain the concept of a “living sacrifice”.

- Why did Paul say, “you also should be glad and rejoice with me”? (Philippians 2:18)

We are to rejoice with each other when we are living our lives without complaining and arguing, but are holding fast to the Word of Life/God?

When we have a willingness to allow our lives to be poured out as a drink offering, we add flavor to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as we suffer for/with Him.

## **Closing**

**Are you willing to be a drink offering?**

**Are you willing to live sacrificially for your faith?**

This certainly requires more than seeing your faith in Christ as an insurance plan to keep you out of hell, but rather this is an all-consuming willingness to live for Christ. Will you join me?