

## Small Group and Reflection Questions Phil 2.12-18

\*Please make sure you get to #5 and #6.

1. Phil 2.12-13 is a foundational pair of verses that is important to reflect upon. While asserting the fundamental that all scripture (NT and OT) is “God breathed and profitable ... so that we can be complete and equipped for every good work” (1Tim 3.16-17), there are pieces of scripture that summarize and illuminate with special insight the unique call of the life of faith in Christ. Phil 2.12-13 is one of these pieces. Memorizing and reflecting on these two verses will yield faithfulness and depth in our relationship with Christ.
2. How would you summarize v.12? How would you summarize v.13? What is the relationship between the two? Pulling on your understanding in scripture, how would you describe God’s “will” and “good pleasure” toward you (v.13)? What are the various components of that?
3. How do you know that v.12 is not talking about working to earn salvation from God? Compare Phil 2.12-13 with Eph 2.8-10. How are they both affirming that salvation is God’s work, not ours, but that there is work for us to do? The sermon mentioned a parallel with God’s creation of Adam and Eve and his giving them “work” to do in his creation/garden. How is this parallel helpful or not?
4. How do you compare the “work” of Phil 2.12-13 and the “work” of Eph 2.10? What are the nuance differences between these two?
5. \*The sermon mentioned four focuses for “working out our salvation:” on ourselves (v. 15a), on being able to live out God’s commands (v.14, 18), as helping our being witnesses (v.15c), and for God’s glory, (1.11, 2.11). Spend time either talking about how you need Christ’s salvation “worked out” in particular areas of your life OR talk about how to “work it out” in the area of the command to “not grumble or dispute” (v. 14) and the command to “find joy beyond circumstances” (v.18). Does the quote from Miller, in the bulletin, help to focus the process and challenges of “working out our salvation?”
  - a. The thought that came to me was the power that comes when our vision is centered on the glory and praise of God. Practically I believe that this glory comes into its own when we self-consciously make it our anchor for what we are doing. ...What we need is a greater vision of Christ increasing until He has changed [us, Grace Hill, NC, and the world]. ... Hindrances there are. One of these happens to be reservation in our hearts about the nature and character of His will for our lives. We secretly suspect that His will might be more demanding, more crucifying of our desires, than we can handle. But daily surrender to His will as you pray, and it will bring a freedom from anxiety that you cannot believe. ... Praise and glorying are mysterious visitations of the King and the moving of His kingdom. (Miller, *The Heart of a Servant Leader*, p. 25.)
6. \*Spend time in prayer for each other about your discussion in #5.