

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Philippians 2:12-18 Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

Paul highlights the obedience of the Philippians as a good thing.

How is obedience viewed in our culture? Why?

What makes obedience difficult? When do you find yourself resisting it?

Who is it that the Philippians have “always obeyed?”

What does it mean to “work out your salvation?”

How is working out salvation different from salvation by works?

How does it change your reading to know that “work out” and

“your own” are both plural? How do we do this together?

Pastor Adam talked about fear and trembling as “joyful reverence” and the twin dangers of being too casual (flippant) and too formal (dreadful).

Which error are you more susceptible to? Do you need a corrective?

Do you have a strong negative reaction to either formality or informality in worship? Why? How can you avoid over-reacting?

How can you embrace the joyful reverence that is proper before God?

Read Psalm 15. How does that Psalm connect to what Paul say in 2:14-15?

Paul makes a big deal about not grumbling or arguing (gossiping or criticizing).

Why does Paul single these out as the way to work out your salvation?

What makes gossiping and arguing so dangerous to the church?

Why do we often tend to downplay the severity of these sins?

How can we actively and graciously combat these sins in our individual lives and in our corporate church life?

Take time to honestly assess yourself, invite the Holy Spirit to convict you, and prayerfully consider if gossip is something you have fostered, tolerated, encouraged, or participated in. Ask for the Lord’s forgiveness in this, and ask for forgiveness from any people you may have hurt.

Do the same thing again with the issue of quarreling, arguing, and criticizing. Ask the Spirit to reveal where you have contributed to foolish fights and unnecessary criticism (hint: most criticism is unnecessary). Repent, asking forgiveness both from Jesus and from others you may have hurt.

Pray for a spirit of unity for First Cov as we work out our salvation together.

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