SHINING FOR CHRIST
(Phil. 2:12–18)

TEXT—Phil. 2:12-18

Mt. 5:14-16

1. WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION (Phil. 2:12-13)—Salvation means to be forgiven of sin and to be right with God by trusting in Christ alone as Savior and Lord. Salvation is receiving the free gift of eternal life by faith in Christ alone **(Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9).** Since Christ paid the full price for our salvation, what does it mean to work out our salvation? Paul doesn't say work 'for, towards, or at' your salvation, but 'work out' your salvation.

2 Cor. 5:17-18

*****Does the way we treat one another reflect Christ's humility, or just the world's way of doing things?**

Phil. 2:13; Phil. 1:6

"*Fear and trembling*" is not an attempt to earn God's acceptance. It is a humble dependence on God. It's the opposite of casual, flippant Christianity. It's the awareness that we serve a holy God — and that we cannot do this in our own strength.

Application—What is God currently working in you? It might be a conversation you've been avoiding; a relationship you need to make right. A habit you need to break; a serving opportunity you keep walking past. Take that one step. *Pray for His will and His working in you.

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2. DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT GRUMBLING (Phil. 2:14-15)—Notice the two words Grumbling & Disputing in **V 14.** Grumbling is the low, constant complaining under the breath. The sighing. The eyeroll. The "why do I always have to be the one who..." "Disputing" is the arguing, the friction, the running conflict with one another. Grumbling and quarreling can reveal distrust of God and damage the church's unity and witness.

Deut. 32:5

Now— one very important CAUTION. ***This is not a demand for silence about real problems. Grumbling is different from honest lament, asking for help, reporting harm, or working to correct an actual injustice. The issue is the heart posture. Grumbling mutters against God's providence and poisons a community's witness. Honest, respectful speech — even hard speech — serves love and truth.

Now let me put a picture in front of you**.**

Application. First — personal speech. Take a 24-hour fast from complaining. Just try it. Every time you feel the urge to grumble, pause and thank God for one specific thing instead. CHOOSE to WORSHIP instead of GRUMBLE!

Second — community witness. Before you speak critically of someone — a family member, a coworker, a church leader — ask yourself: does this build them up, or does it just air my irritation? If there's a real concern, take it to them — directly & respectfully. Eph. 4:29

Third — family. Try this at the dinner table this week. Have each person name 1 thing they are genuinely thankful for.

3. HOLD FAST TO THE WORD OF LIFE (Phil. 2:16-18) --What is "the word of life"? It's the gospel — the life-giving message about Jesus. "Holding fast" means keeping a firm grip on it. Not letting it slip. Continuing to believe it, obey it, and share it. You don't hold fast to something by accident. A firm grip is a choice, renewed.

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A drink offering. In the Old Testament, wine was offered to God alongside a sacrifice. Paul pictures his costly service — even the possible giving of his very life — as an offering poured out alongside the Philippians' faith. Their faith is the sacrifice. His service is the drink offering poured out with it.

V 17–18--Faithfulness is not just surviving. It's rejoicing, even when it costs you. Even when the offering being poured out is your own comfort, your own convenience, your own life. **V 19-24** Timothy faithfully shine for Christ. **V 25-30** Epaphroditus faithfully shines for Christ.

Applications* Personal devotion. Keep a firm grip on Scripture this week. Read it, listen to it. Memorize it. Believe it. Obey it. Don't let busyness loosen your hold on the word of life.

****Encourage another believer with the word — a newer Christian, a discouraged friend, an elderly member. Text them. Call. Show up.**

*****Costly service. Serve Christ even when it's inconvenient or goes unthanked, remembering Phil .2:13, God is working in you!**