



**PHILIPPIANS:  
ENJOYING LIFE**  
An interactive Bible study for  
individuals, families,  
and LIFE Groups

~ Week Eight ~  
“Joyful Obedience”  
Philippians 2:12-18

**SERMON NOTES**

*Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:*

Thanks for using UPC's weekly Bible study guide. We pray that this tool will help you RECALL what you heard in the Sunday sermon, REFLECT on the Scriptures more fully, and RESPOND with love to God, church, and community. If you miss a sermon, or would like to review it, visit our website: [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

**WARM UP**

What are a couple of your pet peeves? How do you handle them?

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**RECALL THE SUNDAY SERMON**

**Read Philippians 2:12-18**

a) What new insight(s) did you gain from the sermon about how to live the daily Christian life?

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b) Why does Paul call us to “work out our salvation” (vs. 12) if we are saved not by works but by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)?

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c) Furthermore, why does Paul say we should work out our salvation “with fear and trembling” (vs. 12)? Doesn't “perfect love drive out fear” (1 John 4:18)?

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d) In what ways does this passage of Scripture teach that Christians can stand out and be different in a world full of corruption?

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## REFLECT A BIT FURTHER

a) According to this passage of Scripture, where does the power to obey God come from?

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b) Verse 14 says, "Do everything without complaining or arguing." What do you find it easy to complain about?

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c) Why do you complain about these things? In other words, what is really going on under the surface, in your heart, when you complain and grumble about your circumstances?

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d) What do you notice about the apostle Paul in this week's passage of Scripture, which enabled him not to be a complainer?

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## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

a) You'll notice in this week's passage of Scripture that Christians are partly responsible for their own sanctification. (*Sanctification* means the process of growing more and more holy and Christ-like.) In verse 12, Paul exhorts us to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling." He's really charging us to prove the authenticity of our salvation by pursuing a life of holiness and obedience. In verse 15 he

exhorts us to "become blameless and pure, children of God without fault." Both these verses emphasize the necessity of exertion and resolve in one's own sanctification. In other words, sanctification does not just magically happen. We do not just "let go and let God" make us holy. So, take stock for a moment. In what areas of holiness have you relaxed your standards or grown lazy?

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b) What needs to change in order to "work out your salvation" in those specific areas?

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## PRAY FOR UPC

Please pray this week for:

- **The Women's Retreat** on May 19-21 - Pray that the women who attend will be refreshed by their time with God and each other.
- **Vacation Bible School** June 11-16 - Pray that VBS will honor God and effectively reach families for Christ.
- The upcoming concert by **Fernando Ortega** at UPC on Friday, May 12 - Pray that it will help foster unity among the many churches represented in the audience.
- Our outreach to **the LifeCare Center and The Bridge**, where each week a team of UPC people lead senior citizens in worship and share the gospel by word and deed.
- Our high school, college, and seminary **graduates**, many of whom are preparing for final exams and papers this week.
- Our **high school youth ministry** - Pray that the team of students going on the London mission trip will depend fully on God as they prepare to leave in a couple of weeks.