

LIFE Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Series: Joy in the Journey

Sermon Title: Thanks for the Generosity

Sermon Text: Philippians 2: 12-30

Sermon Date: April 7, 2013

Summary: After the magnificent hymn to and about Christ in 2: 1-11, which highlights Jesus' humility and obedience, Paul now (logically) turns to the Philippians and encourages them to go and do likewise: be obedient to God, work out your salvation, shine as lights in the world, and be humble servants like Jesus. Paul even gives 2 additional models of servanthood in Timothy and Epaphroditus.

Discussion questions

1. What are your initial impressions as you read this passage?
2. Who lives the Christian life? God? Or Us? What is the relationship between God's work and our work in sanctification?
3. Why does Paul say we work out our salvation in "fear and trembling?" Describe the "fear and trembling" that we are to have.
4. What does it mean that we are to be in the midst of a "crooked and twisted generation?" How do we shine as lights in that environment? What should be our relationship to that "crooked generation?"
5. Why do we complain and grumble? What are we saying about our circumstances when we complain? What are we saying to God when we complain? How are complaining and faith incompatible?
6. How can we learn to stop complaining and grumbling?
7. How does Christ's example in 2: 1-11 impact this paragraph?
8. What do we learn about Timothy? What traits are exemplary?
9. What do we learn about Epaphroditus? What is exemplary about him?
10. What lessons about servanthood can you take from the examples of Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus?
11. What about the Philippians would make Paul proud? On the contrary, what would disappoint him?
12. What's the main idea of this passage? What's the main takeaway for you?