

Philippians Study: Having a Real Relationship with Jesus
Part Two: A New Humility

Lesson 6: Philippians 2:12–18

Read the passage carefully several times

1. What does Paul say about the Philippians' obedience (12a; compare with 2:8)? In light of it, what does he tell them to do (12b)? How does he later show them what it means to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (3:8–14)?
2. What is Paul's confidence (13; see also 1:6)? How does this help us understand the nature of our work and God's work?
3. What does Paul then command them (14)? How is it related to working out their salvation (12)? Why do we need to fight against our own grumbling and disputing?
4. How can we "shine as lights in the world" (15), and why is this Paul's goal for them and us? What does it mean to be "holding fast to the word of life" (16a)?
5. What ultimate goal does Paul keep in mind (16b; see also 1:10–11)? What possible end does he mention (17a), and what does this mean?
6. Why is he glad and rejoicing, and why should they (17b–18)?
7. In light of this study, what changes in your attitude and behavior would you like to make this week?