

Living for Self or for God?

Philippians 2:12-18

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

1. Motive vs. 12-13

Knowing what Jesus Christ has done motivates us to live into the promises of God in Christ, so that our testimony on the day of Christ's return will be that God's good work (1:6) has been lived out in our lives.

Question:

- Is our motive in our daily living a self serving one or one to bring God glory by choosing to live our lives for God?
- God is the one who provides both the desire and capacity we need to do His will. How have you seen God do this in your life already? Where have you seen Him give you strength to do what you couldn't before? Where have you seen him change your desires?

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."^[c] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

2. Calling vs. 14-16

The Philippian believers, as people of God, have inherited the status of being God's children and the calling to live as God's children. However, they can only fulfill it if they avoid the mistakes of the past, give up their discord, and present a unified witness to the dark world around them.

The moment Jesus is our Lord is the moment we have inherited the status of being God's children and the calling to live as God's children. However, in order to fulfill the calling is to avoid the mistakes of the past, give up discord, and present a unified witness to the dark world around us.

Questions:

- Is your calling you have chosen focused on self-fulfillment & self-gratification or being a child of God who chooses to live as God's child each day?
- How do we draw our strength from God as we do what we are called to?
- What have you found to be the best antidote to arguing and complaining?

¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

3. Rejoicing vs. 17-18

Although Paul's opposition chose to inflict him with suffering, he chose to rejoice, as he reminded the Philippians that serving God with all your heart, and choosing to stand firm in the Lord even when it costs is worth it, as our labour is never in vain. God in the end will prevail.

We can rejoice as Paul did, as serving God with all your heart, and choosing to stand firm in the Lord even when it costs is worth it, as our labour is never in vain. God in the end will prevail.

Questions:

- Do you choose to rejoice in the things of this world, or in who God is, what He has done, and will do as we eagerly look forward to Christ's return?
- If God has already empowered us (those who are believers) by His Spirit, then really all we lack is the desire. What desires are you currently praying that the Lord would change?
- If it is up to God to change our desires, how then can we position ourselves so that we might be transformed? What is our part?