

Outline

Numbers in underlined curly brackets {#} correspond to presentation slides. Numbers in parentheses (#) correspond to Bible verses.

I. {2} Introduction

- A. Coach tweaks athlete's form
- B. Paul's coaching of Philippians
- C. Following the best example: Jesus Christ (2.5–11)
- D. Outline of larger section about obedience—starting at 1.27 and ending at 2.18

II. Paul's Message to the Philippians in 2.12–18

- A. {3} Three subsections:
 - 1. a general command and its theological ground (vv. 12–13);
 - 2. a specific command and its connection to God's plan of sanctification for the Church (vv. 14–16);
 - 3. a response and command concerning joy, which complements the second command (vv. 17–18).
- B. {4} The First Command: "Work Out Your Salvation" (vv. 12–13)
 - 1. {5–7} "Fear and trembling"—an OT allusion to Ex 15.15–16, Ps 2.11
 - 2. "Fear and trembling"—dread and reverence—exemplified in Isa 6.1–5.
 - 3. {8, 9} "Fear and trembling" as "God-consciousness" in our work
 - 4. {10–12} "Salvation" in Phil 2.12 is *sanctification*—the gradual process of becoming more and more obedient to Christ—not *justification* or *glorification*
 - 5. {13–14} "Work out"—God did the work—now the response is to please and honor him who superintends all our good work—God is the worker!
 - 6. {15} Assurance of faith: God does it for his "good pleasure"—a mystery—therefore, both success and suffering bring honor to Christ (Phil 1.19–26)
- C. {16} The Second Command: "Do All Things without Grumbling or Disputing" (vv. 14–16)
 - 1. {17–18} Grumbling, *γογγυσμός*—OT echo—Ps 106.25—children of Israel grumbled against YHWH and did not enter his rest—Heb 3.16–4.1—thanklessness
 - 2. {19} Disputing, *διαλογισμός*—serpent's "reasoning"—word used in Matt 15.19, Luke 25.38, Rom 14.1, etc.—inner reasonings and outer arguments against truth—excuses
 - 3. These infect thoughts and habits, speech and actions, oneself and others
 - 4. Holy complaints (Psalms) vs. grumbling: complaining to God vs. against him
 - 5. Obedience with grumbling is disobedience!
 - 6. {20–23} Purpose for command: to become blameless, children of God, shining like lights—three OT allusions in a row—Gen 17.1, Deut 32.5, Dan 12.3—all about sanctification
 - 7. Point of allusions: God has foreordained our sanctification!
 - 8. {24, 25} Final result: Paul's boast in the final day—no work of God in vain
- D. The Third Command: "Rejoice, and Share Your Joy" (vv. 17–18)

1. {26} Transition: no vanity, but Paul will suffer and die for the good news—OT sacrificial language—Christ is the High Priest offering up our works to God
2. {27, 28} Despite suffering and death, Paul rejoices—joy and death are not mutually exclusive—NT very clear: joy despite suffering; suffering is not the enemy
3. ESV’s “be glad” for *χαίρω* is not quite right—rejoice is more active here—deliberate complement to avoiding grumbling and disputing
4. {29} Philippians should rejoice for the same reasons that Paul does
5. {30} “I share joy,” *συνχαίρω*—rejoicing along with someone else—Luke 1.58, Luke 15.5–6, 1 Cor 12.26—encourages others into the fear of the Lord

E. Reviewing vv. 12–18

1. Minus grumbling, plus rejoicing—tweaks from Paul the coach—get at the general command to work out salvation with fear and trembling
2. {31} OT allusions and echoes throughout this passage—obedience of NT believers prophesied in OT—sanctification, just like justification and glorification, is foreordained by God for his good pleasure

III. God’s Message to the Church Universal

A. The Good News

1. Jesus Christ won your salvation with fear and trembling—Jesus Christ destroyed the devil’s lies in refusing the grumble and dispute with the Father—Jesus Christ rejoiced despite the death that awaited him and share his joy with those who would benefit from his suffering.
2. The work is already accomplished in him; we are following in his footsteps. He owes us nothing and gives us everything; we owe him everything—and today is the opportunity we have to submit to him in fear and trembling

B. {32} We have everything we need to obey:

1. The ground and starting-point for our obedience is God’s good pleasure.
2. The example for obedience, given in the “Christ Hymn,” is God’s Son who took on flesh.
3. The power and means for obedience is God’s Spirit.
4. The end-goal for obedience is rejoicing in God’s glory—both now and forever.

C. The glory is God’s. Our boast is in his faithfulness, not our excellence.

IV. Application for Bay Ridge Christian Church

- A. *What does “fear and trembling” look like for you?*—Alone with free time—at work—talking with unbelievers—listening to a sermon
- B. *Do you acknowledge God in the good work that you do? Who is being glorified when you are obedient?*—Others praising your work—unbelievers questioning your behavior
- C. *Do you let grumbling and disputing hinder you and others from genuine obedience?*—“God has done a lot for me *but...*”—holding grudges about suffering—hidden expectations for how life should go—complaining to him vs. complaining against him
- D. *Are you ready to praise God aloud despite difficult circumstances? And do you rejoice at the successes and growth of others?*—Holy rejoicing points to heavenly hope—health and wealth gospel is false gospel—suffering an occasion for relying more and more on God—Jesus Christ himself learned obedience through the things that he suffered

- E. *Do you believe that your sanctification is foreordained?* —God who made you also sanctifies you—not like climbing a mountain that you can fall off of—more like running a race—when you mess up, you can start where you were—none of God’s work is in vain
- F. *Do you see how you wage spiritual warfare by your everyday obedience with fear and trembling, without grumbling and disputing, and with rejoicing and sharing joy?* —devil cannot make us fear anything if we fear God—confessing God’s work in us repudiates the serpent’s lie that God is holding us back—devil is grumbling and disputer, who tempted Jesus to grumble in wilderness by turning stones to bread, but we can confess what he did and rejoice in God’s provision—rejoicing in the Lord is resisting the devil—sharing joy is equipping the whole army of God for the battles