

Week 3: The Work God Continues

Overview: Jesus saved us – now God continues to grow us. Sanctification is God shaping us to look more like Jesus every day.

Key Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18

CONTENT

Key Takeaway: God is actively shaping you, stretching you, and transforming you to look more like Jesus.

Chapter 2 Overview Continued: Throughout Philippians, Paul has been teaching believers how to live out their faith with joy and obedience – not to earn salvation, but because they belong to Jesus. Paul now shifts from what Jesus has done to how believers live it out. In this section, Paul tells them to:

- “work out” their salvation (not work *for* it)
- Obey God even when it’s difficult
- Avoid grumbling and arguing
- Shine like lights in a dark world
- Rejoice even in hardship

Key Points

- Sanctification: God growing us to become more like Jesus every day.
 - We mature, learn, repent, and reflect Jesus more.
- We work out what God works in (vv12-13)
 - To work out our salvation with fear and trembling:
 - This means with seriousness, awe, and humility before God – NOT anxiety
 - We don’t work for salvation – we work from salvation
 - We don’t earn salvation – we express our salvation. Sanctification looks like obedience, growth, and spiritual maturity. God supplies both the desire and power to grow in Christlikeness – we respond in obedience.
 - Application ideas:
 - Where at school do you need to obey God?
 - What spiritual discipline can you practice this week? (prayer, Scripture, worship, confession)
- Stop complaining and start shining (vv14-15)
 - Paul says believers “shine like stars” when they refuse to complain or argue. Complaining is normal in our culture – shining is kingdom culture.
 - A changed attitude is one of the clearest signs of Jesus at work in us.

- What would happen if you were known as the most encouraging person in your class?
- God uses your life as a light in dark places (vv15-16)
 - School can feel dark – drama, pressure, gossip, anxiety, insecurity. Students are placed there to shine.
 - God places us in specific schools, teams, and spaces to shine for Him
 - What's the dark place in school you can shine in?
 - Locker room, lunch table, group chat

Gospel Application: Sanctification isn't about self-improvement. It's about Spirit-empowered transformation. The same Jesus who saved you continues His work in you. The Holy Spirit works in us daily to make us look more like Jesus.

Key Question: Where do you need God's power to help you grow this week?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- Open up your Bibles and read Philippians 2:12-18 together.
- Take some time to write out verses of encouragement on sticky notes; plan to put them on students' lockers tomorrow at school!
- Message illustration: Bring someone up to receive a gift - it isn't earned by good behavior or effort—it's freely given by God and simply needs to be received through faith. This gives us CONFIDENCE to live our faith out.

Community Group Questions

- How has God changed your attitude in the past that has led to your sanctification? Leaders, feel free to answer!
- Sanctification doesn't occur through only our work. How can we allow the Holy Spirit to help us in our sanctification?
- Based on this message, what does obedience look like for you right now? Whether it is a large or small step.
 - More specifically, where at school or home do you need to obey God?