



THE PURSUIT OF GODLINESS

Philippians 2:14-18

March 3, 2024
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Good morning Church! God's will for the church of Philippi is the same for any church and all followers of Christ: to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. The gospel is what Jesus has done for us and continues to do for us to sanctify, mature, grow and workout your salvation. Jesus was counter-culture in his time on earth as the God-man and calls for his disciples to be the same.

Philippians 2:14-18

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me."

1. The Pursuit of Godliness Helps AVOID SIN and PERVERSION. (v 14-15)

"All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all."

Isaiah 53:6

*"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." **Judges 25:21***

*"Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. **29** Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. **30** They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. **31** They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. **32** They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too."*

Romans 1:28-32

2. The Pursuit of Godliness Helps BECOME LIKE JESUS. (v 15-16)

The sanctifying results for Christians are to live:

- BLAMELESS — a life that CANNOT be criticized because of sin or evil.
- HARMLESS — a life that is INNOCENT, pure or unmixed with sin.
- Without BLEMISH — a life that is free from sinful HABITS or BEHAVIORS that hinders the Christian reputation.
- As LIGHTS — a life that reflects JESUS and his godly CHARACTER that offers hope.

*“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” **Matthew 5:16***

- Holding fast to the WORD of Life — a life that LIVES OUT GOSPEL ethical teachings.

3. The Pursuit of Godliness Brings UNITY and JOY To The CHURCH. (v 17-18)

- Serving God FAITHFULLY and SACRIFICIALLY is a joy for every believer.

*“We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too.” **1 Thessalonians 2:8***

Salvation through Jesus Christ

*The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. **The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.*