



+ We worked our way through Philippians 2:12-18 last Sunday, these questions will hopefully help you explore these verses further. We began by asking ourselves whether living the gospel life was worth it and whether it would make any difference to our lives when got to the day of Christ. Paul encouraged the Philippians that as they worked out their salvation, God was at work in them and through them to bring change. We focused on the area of grumbling and arguing from vv14-16.

### **God is at work in you to change you**

Grumbling and arguing appeared to be an issue for the Philippians. These things can be dangerous for the Christians' spiritual health as they were for the Israelites coming out of Egypt. We can easily be guilty of allowing complaining and/or arguing to dominate our thoughts and relationships. But as we look to Jesus and trust in him putting him and others above ourselves he changes us so we become more like him; which is his good purpose for our lives.

### **God is at work through us to change the world**

As God changes us, through motivating and empowering our obedience to Christ we become blameless and pure which means we will stand out in the world. Paul quotes from Deut 32 and applies it to how Christians make a difference in 'a warped and crooked generation.' As Christians hold firmly to the word of life, living and speaking for Jesus people will be drawn to Christ.

Therefore, Paul encourages us to rejoice and be glad in our obedience and service so that on the day of Christ we can boast, not in ourselves, but in what Christ has done in and through us for his good pleasure.

*Here are some questions to help create discussion for your group.*

*How do you feel when you read about the call to find joy and put Christ first despite your circumstances? Do you ever ask yourself whether your life will make a difference?*

*Read vv12-13*

*What does it mean to 'work out your salvation in fear and trembling'? What is God's role in our obedience? How does God work in us for living?*

*Read vv14-15*

*What you think the Philippians were grumbling and arguing about? (Phil 1:28-30; 4:2-3) Discuss the attitude of the Israelites in the desert (Ex 16-17; Num 14; 16) how can we be just as quick to argue and/or grumble? Can you think of specific examples in life and relationships where grumbling and arguing cause problems?*

*What difference would it make if there was no grumbling or arguing in your life, family, work, neighborhood? Is this possible? If so how? What does it look like to be blameless and pure (Phil 1:9-11) Pray that God would help you to respond to situations without grumbling or arguing.*

*Read vv14-16*

*What difference does being blameless and pure make in society? Why does Paul quote from Deut 32:5? How will their lives be like stars shining in the sky? (Dan 12: 3) What is the 'word of life' and how it related to their witness?*

*Can you think of any examples of how your like or other lives have made an impact through them 'standing out'? Pray that God would help you be distinctive and use the opportunities it produces.*

*Read vv16-17*

*What is Paul hoping he's able to boast in on the day of Christ? How will this be possible? How does this future hope motivate him to live and suffer now? What is a drink offering and what is its place in the sacrificial system? (Ex 29:40-1; 30:9; Num 15:1-5) What is Paul saying with these references or metaphors? How can we encourage one another to be glad and rejoice in our sacrifice and service for the Lord? Pray!*