**PHILIPPIANS**

Class Study - 2:12-30

1. 2:12 In the NT, especially in Paul’s writings, the term “obedience” is sometimes used as a synonym for faith. Here no doubt it includes both faith and living the kind of lives that result from faith. How does faith show itself in our lives?
2. 2:12 Work out your salvation. At first glance that seems to contradict what we know about salvation by grace alone. Read Hebrews 3:14. How does this verse help not to be misled into believing we need to save ourselves?
3. 2:13 God is at work in believers for His good purpose. What is that purpose that God has for each Christian including us?
4. 2:14 Being discontented with God’s will is an expression of unbelief that prevents one from doing what pleases God. How does that show itself in our lives?
5. 2:15 “blameless and pure…without fault” does not mean absolute, sinless perfection, but wholehearted, unmixed devotion to doing God’s will. How can we get that done?
6. 2:15 The people in Paul’s world and those in ours are “a crooked and depraved generation.” What are examples of depravity in our world?
7. 2:15 To “shine like stars” means to contrast, like light in darkness, that Christians are to be in contrast to the world around them. How can we do what is asked?
8. 2:16 What is Paul asking to be done by the Philippians and us?
9. 2:17-18 *I am being poured out.* The reference may be to his entire ministry as one large thanksgiving sacrifice. However, it is more probable that Paul refers to his present imprisonment, which may end in a martyr’s death. His life would then be poured out as a drink offering accompanying the sacrificial service of the Philippians.

In the OT rituals the drink offering was poured out next to the altar on which the burnt offering was sacrificed. Paul regarded believers’ lives of obedience to the gospel as living sacrifices to the Lord. His own martyrdom, should it occur, would be a willing sacrifice on his part, a sacrifice poured out next to the sacrifices of the Christian lives of the Philippians.

What is Paul telling the Philippians about his ministry and their response? What are some lessons for us in our daily living?

1. 2:19-23 – Why is Timothy so helpful to him? Have you someone like that in your life? If yes, how does that benefit you? Are you or could you be a helper like that to someone else? In what ways might you fill that role?
2. 2:24 Why does Paul have confidence that he may one day again be with the Philippians? How can we follow that example?
3. 2:25-30
4. Why was Paul so eager to send Epaphroditus back to the Philippians.?
5. Even though he didn’t have any great status, how had Epaphroditus proved himself useful?
6. In what ways may Epaphroditus have made himself vulnerable to sickness because of his ministry activities?
7. What can we learn from this?