

SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Sermon Title: "HDR"

Series Title: Authentic: Real Life in Christ, Inside & Out

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Philippians 2:12-18

January 28, 2024

Description:

As you shine as lights in the world, our best witness of the work of Christ in our lives is how we...

Icebreaker (for groups):

When you were growing up, which household chore(s) did you grumble about the most?

Reflections on the Sermon:

What points in Bryan's sermon resonated with you?

Scripture Passage: Philippians 2:12–18 (ESV)

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that 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, ¹⁶holding 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. ¹⁷Even 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. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. In verse 12, for what in the past does Paul commend the Philippians? What does he want them to do now?
2. What is the difference between *working out* your salvation and *working for* your salvation?
3. In verse 13, how do you think God works in believers for His good pleasure? Tell about a time when you felt you were working for His good pleasure.
4. In verses 14-15a, how may a believer be blameless and innocent before God? How can a believer become blameless and innocent before God when he or she sins?
5. In verse 15b, how does Paul describe what he urges the Philippians to be in contrast to the world?
6. In verse 16, what does it mean to "hold firmly to the word of life?" What does the "day of Christ" refer to? What would Paul be proud of on that day?

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7. In verse 17a, why do you think Paul considers himself to be a drink offering? What is Paul saying he values most from the Philippian church?
8. In verses 17b-18, why does Paul want to be glad and rejoice with the Philippians? How does verse 18 contrast with verse 14?

Going Deeper:

1. In verse 12, what is Paul referring to when writes, “therefore?”
2. Why would someone behave one way in someone’s presence and behave another way in their absence? What can one do to be more consistent in his or her behavior?
3. In verses 12-13, what is the relationship between “work out” and “works in?”
4. In verse 14-15, what church issue(s) can you imagine that Paul is addressing?
5. In this passage, what three commands does Paul give the church at Philippi? How can these commands apply today? With these commands in mind, can you summarize this passage?
6. Will you consider exploring local ministries where you or your small group can serve the Lord in faith, so you will be glad and have reasons to rejoice together?

Personal Questions:

1. What can you do when you feel like you are running or laboring in vain?
2. How is God working in you to will and to work for His good pleasure? What in your life might be keeping this from happening to the extent it could?
3. In what way(s) are you shining as a light in the world? How much contrast do you feel there is between your light and that of the world? How might God be working in you, so you may shine brighter?

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Prayer:

Thank You, Father, for working in each of us to will and to work for Your good pleasure. Help us sinners work out our salvation without blemish rather than with grumbling or disputing. You know our sinful nature, Lord, and it is a daily miracle that Your work in us produces anything good that lasts. May our sacrificial offerings and service come from our faith in You rather than from selfish motives. May we strive to serve others in Your name and in Your power, inspiring us to rejoice with one another. We praise You for all You do in us and through us. For it is in Your blessed name we pray. Amen!