

Get into the Gym

Philippians 2:12-18

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶ as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.¹

In Philippians 1:27-2:18, Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to maintain unity. The overarching command for this section is found in 1:27, “. . . *conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ . . . stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel . . .*” In 2:1-4, he explains the basis of unity. In 2:5-11, he uses the life of Christ as an illustration of that basis. In 2:12-18, he then clarified the believers’ responsibility.

Paul’s emphasis in 2:12-18 is that we are to exercise our salvation by living as a joyful witness.

Exercise your salvation (12-13).

With God’s help, live out your faith with great passion.

Be a positive witness (14-16).

Rather than waste your life being negative, serve as a positive model for those who need Christ.

Offer a joyful sacrifice (17-18).

Make serving God and others your primary purpose, and you will experience joy in difficult circumstances.

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.