

CALLING OF THE BELIEVER

Philippians 2:13-18



SYNOPSIS

Continuing on from last week “The Calling of the Church” we hear from our friend and missionary in Coban Guatemala, Pastor Jon Moon on the calling of the believer. In our passage, Paul is encouraging the church to continue working out their own salvation, doing things without grumbling, and holding fast to Jesus in the process. And that encouragement is for us as well. We listened to the three cause and effects of the calling of the believer.

We see the first cause-and effect, how we are called to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. When we are not working out our salvation, we become stagnant water that ends up breeding disease and harms not only us but those around us. But when we do work out our own salvation, we become water that brings life. We see how God works in us to fulfill his good works that He has purposed for us.

We also see how we are called to do all things without grumbling or disputing, and how our attitude is so important to our testimony. When our attitude of serving others, the church, and God is one of joy and contentment, we see that the effect is that we shine as lights in the world.

Finally, we see how we are called to hold fast to the Word of Life. We need to hold fast to Jesus. But in order to do so, we need to let go of our own will and self-centeredness. We have a hard time holding fast to Jesus because there are so many things we hold onto that we refuse to let go of. Satan uses those things as traps to capture us and destroy us. When we do hold fast to Jesus, we can be proud that we do not labor or run in vain.



OUTLINE

1

WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION

We need to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling so that we can be a stream of water that brings life to everything and everyone around us. Question: How is God using you to contribute to His Kingdom and to His glory?

2

DO THINGS WITHOUT GRUMBLING

At the root of grumbling lies discontentment and unhappiness. We need to kill the root of grumbling so that we can be credible witnesses of our God who did not grumble when He came to serve us - but did so because of the joy that was set before Him. What is our attitude when it comes to serving others, the church, and God?

3

HOLD FAST TO JESUS

P Jon shared about the monkeys that get trapped so easily because they refuse to let go of something they want within these traps. In the same way, we also get trapped by the devil when we do not let go of things in the traps he lays out for us. Holding fast to Jesus requires us to let go of lesser things. Are you willing to be poured out as a drink offering to Jesus? Are you willing to be poured out to serve and sacrifice for others?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How do we “work out our faith” in the church?

2

What things or lack of things have caused you to grumble or bring up dispute in the church?

3

What mindsets or attitudes are you attached to that’s preventing you from experiencing joy and gladness in service/life?

4

What are we holding on to that is keeping us trapped? What do we need to let go to experience freedom/life in serving God?

5

What does it look like for you to let go of control and trust God in serving Him?



BIG IDEA

In our calling as believers, we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling so that God can fulfill the good works that He has purposed for us. We must do all things without grumbling or disputing, so that we can be pure and blameless and shine as lights into the world. And we must hold fast to the Word of Life, Jesus, believing that He is far greater and far more worthy than anything else in this world. He is the source of our joy and contentment.