



## April 7<sup>th</sup> Sermon Questions

### Philippians Part II

#### Philippians 2: 12-18

Icebreaker: Would you rather have every traffic light turn green or always have the best parking spot?

Discussion Questions: **Read** the scripture verses above.

1. What do you do when you're running on empty? How do you try to cope with feelings of exhaustion?
2. In his sermon, Justin commented that we are tired because we push against (or test) the limits of our God-given human limitations. How have you personally experienced this in your life? Why do you think we tend to do this?
3. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Paul begins here with the word "therefore" (v.12). How are these verses a logical outworking of what he said in vv.5-11? What is the relationship between the Christ Hymn and vv.12-18?
4. Do you think Paul's summons to the Philippian church to obey in our text is a slavish command or a gentle encouragement? Why?
5. What do you think Paul means when he calls the Philippians to "work out your own salvation" (v.12)? How might the placement of this command affect the way you think about it, namely that it is sandwiched between the Christ Hymn where Jesus "emptied himself" for us (vv.5-11) and the promise that "it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (v.13)?

6. What do you think “with fear and trembling” (v.12) have to do with any of this?
7. How does Paul connect the ideas of human responsibility and God’s sovereignty? How is God’s work the foundation and primary motivation for our work?
8. Are there any areas of your life where you need God to show up both “to will and to work for his good pleasure” (v.13)? How could you work with God to move in this direction?
9. What might it look like for you practically to pursue being filled up by Christ over and over, so that you can continue to pour yourself out?
10. The command in verse 12 is plural. How can we help each other together to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling?"
11. What’s your takeaway from our discussion tonight? What do you need to do this week to follow Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, and/or participate in the mission of Jesus?