

Book of Philippians Study #5

Last time you met you made a plan for how you can, as a group, **“make yourselves nothing”** (Philippians 2:7) in some sort of local service project this month. What did you come up with? Have you scheduled something?

Read Philippians 2:12-18 as a group. Which parts are confusing? Which ones do you like? Write down key words & phrases:



Now read verses 12-13 in these translations:

JB Phillips – *Work out the salvation that God has given you with a proper sense of awe and responsibility. For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose.*

The Message – *What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.*

Now work together to write out a **“translation”** of these verses in your own words.

Re-read 2:12-16. Paul says we are called to **shine like stars in the universe**. Give some examples of how you can do that in your life right now. Try to S T R E T C H yourself a bit. Don't play it safe!

Read over 2:19-30. Clearly the church in Philippi took care of Paul and supported him when he was in prison. They sent him \$\$\$ and a close friend named Epaphroditus to encourage him.



We support over 25 ministries as a church. Go to the church website right now and look up at least 2-3 different ministries, and take some time to pray for them in specific ways. **By next week, memorize Philippians 2:21!**