



Studies in Philippians:  
Bearing the Mark of Joy  
*"Joy Is the Fruit of Obedience"*  
Philippians 2:12-18

**Sermon Proposition**

Joy Is the Shared Fruit of Obedience!

Let's learn the lessons taught by Paul so that we might enter into the Shared Joy of Obedience.

**The Responsibility for Obedience Is Corporate ..... 2:12**

**The Reason for Obedience is Singular ..... 2:13**

**The Results of Obedience Are Magnificent .....2:14-18**

## Live It!

### Live by Faith Together

Read the letter to the Philippians with an eye to the corporate “you.” Note the use of the word “you” and assume that Paul is using the second person plural. When you read “you” think of “us and we,” not “I and me.” What is God calling us to be and do together corporately, not merely as individuals?

### Partner in the Gospel through Prayer

*Heavenly Father, I give thanks for your saving work in our lives. Continue to work in us, giving us the desire to obey and the ability to do what is pleasing to you. Forgive us for harming the reputation of this church by our constant complaining and argumentative spirit. Cleanse us so that we may live as your children before our neighbors, coworkers, family members and friends. May our obedience to the word of life be steadfast—a shining light in our dark world. Make our lives count. In anticipation of the Day of Christ, Amen.*

## **Open It!**

What is the reputation of the evangelical church before a watching world? What is the reputation of First Free in the Hamilton neighborhood?

## **Read It!**

Philippians 2:12-18

## **Consider It!**

How does understanding that Paul is using the plural "you" affect our understanding of this passage?

What does Paul say about the obedience of the Philippian believers (2:12)?

How does our obedience change if our (parent, coach, boss) is present or absent? Who is always present?

What are believers to work out, that is accomplish by carrying out together (2:12-13)?

What does it mean "to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (See Exodus 20:18-21 and Hebrews 12:23-29)?

How does God help churches fulfill their saving purpose (2:12-13)?

What specific areas of concern does Paul have (2:14-16)? What grumbling and complaining are believers guilty of today?

What was hindering the witness of the Philippian believers? What would it take for them to shine "like stars" in their world (1:9-11, 27; 2:1-5)?

What did Paul desire for the Philippian believers (2:17-18)?