Philippians 2:12-18

“*His Good Pleasure”*

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:12-18

**Memory Verse:** “*…for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*

 Philippians 2:13

**Lesson Focus:** To live to please God by allowing Him to work in our life.

**Activities and Craft:** 1st and 2nd Graders: Coloring page and Craft: No Whining and No Fighting

 medallions.

3rd – 5th Grades: Student Page to do back in class after large group teaching.

**Introduction:** Ask the kids: What gives you pleasure? (let them tell you some things

Ask them to give you thumbs up or thumbs down if these things give them pleasure or not.

 Butterfly’s

 Pizza

 Homework

 Friends

 Whining

 Family

 Toys

 Fighting

Tell them, that today we are going to see that God takes pleasure in us.

**Bible Study:**

At the beginning of Philippians 2, Paul was encouraging the believers in Philippi to be of one mind, to put others interests before their own, and to have the mind of Christ. At the end of this section he tells them of the humility of Jesus and the glory of Jesus and the fact that in the future every tongue and nation will confess Jesus as Lord.

**Philippians 2:12:** “Work out your salvation”

“Therefore”: Since you have just heard all of the above – now I’m going to give you some clear directions on how to do this. This is motivation to follow Jesus with everything we have and are.

1. You have always obeyed. Paul encouraging the church on their obedience to Christ – even when he wasn’t there. They did not obey to impress Paul – they obeyed Jesus because of His great salvation given to them.

Sometimes we obey Jesus when people are around to see us – but what do we do when no one can see us? Do we obey then?

1. “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling”:
2. First of all, can we save ourselves? Who saves us?

This verse is not saying that “works” or the things you do will get you into heaven. Salvation is only through Jesus Christ.

1. The word “salvation” is cooperate and refers to the church rather to an individual. Since they have been obeying Christ – now they need to continue together to grow and solve problems that come up in the church.
2. “Work Out”: The people of Philippi were to continue working and bring the church to maturity.

√ When you go to the gym what do you do there? (work out)

√ Why do people work out?

√ How do they get the gym? (You have to make the effort to get there.)

Paul is telling the church because we have been saved we need to make a conscious effort every day to mature (grow) in our walk with Christ. We have this great salvation to live out every day.

1. “Fear and trembling”:This is not the “fear and trembling” that we have when we watch something scary or face a hard task. It refers more to a humble attitude and the “awe” of serving God with our whole heart.

**Philippians 2:13:** *“God does the work”*

1. God does the work in us. All we have to do is make ourselves open to following Him. When Jesus left this earth and went to heaven He told us;

“*Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you…” …”However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;…” John 16 :7 & 13a*

Jesus left us the Holy Spirit to do the work of God in our lives. When we allow Him to work in us, He produces a godly life.

1. “to will and to do”: When we let the Holy Spirit work in us, He helps our “wills” and what we do.

“Wills” = our decision maker – They Holy Spirit will help us make the right decisions.

√ Have you ever heard of the phrase “strong will?” What does that mean? When we allow God to work in us we give up “our will” to do “His will.” God will help us follow Him.

“To do” = God will help us “do” the things that please Him. God cares about everything that we “do.” There is not area left out of this “to do” list.

1. “for His good pleasure.” What an awesome verse. God takes great pleasure in us following Him. He even does the work to help us if we let Him.

√ Do you ever think about God taking pleasure in you?

Let’s think of some ways God would take pleasure in us?

* Does God take pleasure in you when you accept Jesus as your Savior?
* Does God take pleasure when you choose to read your Bible?
* Does God take pleasure when you pray to Him?
* Does God take pleasure when you treat others more important than yourself?
* Does God take pleasure in you when you ask Him first to help you make the right choice?

I want to be very clear that we do not earn God’s love and pleasure. God’s love for us is clear in His provision of our Salvation. But He pleasures in a child that follows the Holy Spirit and lives the life he was meant to live. God’s best for us is a life lived for Him. He knows the peace and fulfillment that we will find in Him. Jesus called it “abundant life.”

 **Philippians 2:14: *“****Don’t Complain”*

 Paul is going to tell them a very practical way to “work out their

 salvation” as God works in them.

1. Do all things without complaining:

√ What does it mean to complain? Do you ever do it?

√ Why do we complain so much? (Is it because of our strong wills and wanting to do what want?)

√ Do you like to be around a complainer? Why or why not

√ What is another word for complaining? (Whining)

√ Why did Paul write the words “all things?” What does that leave out?

Let’s take some time to talk about some things that you whine about?

(Teachers take some time to give the kids opportunities so share what they complain about. You may want to share what you complain about also.)

Do you remember when the Israelites in the Old Testament complained to God in the wilderness about everything? (Exodus 16:12). Did God like their complaining or grumbling? No, He did not and they were punished many times because of their grumblings.

Whining and complaining sours our souls. It hurts us on the inside and we are never happy with every situation. God wants to take great pleasure in us as we accept things in our lives with out whining.

1. Do all things without disputing:

√ What does the word disputing mean? (Fighting)

√ Do you ever fight or argue?

√ Why do we fight about things?

 **Philippians 2:15:** *“Blameless”*

When we don’t whine….when we don’t fight….we are seen as blameless or examples. The world looks at us and can’t find anything wrong because we are living as lights reflecting Jesus.

√ What does he mean by “crocked and perverse generation?”

He means that the world that we live in is not following God. They live according to their own sinful nature and do not care about the things of God. They like the darkness apart from God.

 √ What does it mean that we “shine as lights in the world”?

 **Philippians 2:16:** *“Hold fast”*

We “shine as lights” as we hold on to God’s words that bring life.

 This is a word picture of a person holding a torch out in front of them.

 We need to walk through life holding on to the Gospel and God’s words.

 We need to grab hold and never let go!

**Conclusion:** Have you ever watched the Olympics and seen the runner carrying the torch? They carry the small torch to light the larger torch. When we carry God’s truth like a torch and never let go we:

1. Work out our salvation together in the church
2. Allow God to do His work in us
3. Bring God pleasure
4. Don’t whine or fight (within the church and elsewhere)
5. We are examples
6. We shine God’s Light In a very dark world



Philippians 2:13-14

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**God Working in you**

NO

FIGHTING

**God Working in you**

NO WHINING