

LESSON 5: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

Imitating Jesus

1. What is the Christian's worthy response to the example of Christ?
2. "Always obey" (v. 12). Obey who, what, and when? Whose obedience is the example for you to follow (v. 8)? Can you be obedient as far as the Son was obedient? Is there any lesser standard?
3. "Continue to work" (v. 12). Who is responsible for your personal spiritual growth? As an obedient Christian, are you continually translating into action the principles of the gospel that you have believed? How?
4. "With fear and trembling" (v. 12). What does the fear of God mean? Is this the fear of a lost sinner before the holy God, or the fear of the true child before the most loving of Fathers?
5. "Do everything" (v. 14). How total is the work of God (v. 13), and how total is your work (v. 14)? What kind of obedience is being talked about in these verses? You are commanded to do "all things," but is there any one thing that you must do first? Rather than a specific course of action, what are you called to? (See John 6:28; Matthew 6:33.)
6. What then is the basis of Christian ethics? Is it a list of do's and don'ts, or a call to be what you are in Christ (v. 15)? What are you to be? As a child of God, what three kinds of characteristics are you to exhibit?
7. How are you to discharge your responsibilities as a child of God (v. 15)? How can you "shine as a star" (v. 15)? What is the "word of life" which as a shining star you are to hold out (v. 16)? How are you not only to hold onto, but also to hold out the word of life?

8. How is the intrinsic life of the believer measured (v. 17)? Is your faith prompting you to sacrifice your life in obedience, holiness, and witness as your priestly service to God?

9. How has all of this been playing out in the lives of Timothy and Epaphroditus (vv. 19-30)? Are their lives worthy of the Gospel, and in what ways?