

## Be glad and rejoice Read Philippians 2.17-18

*Once again we see Paul facing up to the possibility that he might soon die; executed because of his faith as would eventually happen, although not for a few more years.*

15. What do you think he means by how he describes his possible death in verse 17?

16. If Paul had been executed at that time how might the Philippians have reacted? What does Paul say he is doing and they should also do? Is that easy to do in the face of death?

## Pray

Pray for the men's prayer walk and breakfast and for the women's prayer breakfast both coming up soon. Pray that people would come along and benefit from it.

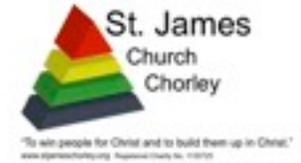
Pray that Christians would be determined to shape their conduct by obedience to God and seeking his will and good pleasure and not by just following the views of the world around us.

Pray for Christians involved in local or national life in councils, parliament or other ways that they too would have courage to live by God's standards and be a positive influence in our society.

*David Phillips,  
September 2018*

# Philippians

## Study 5 : Lights in the World Philippians 2.12-18



## Working out

### Read Philippians 2.12-13

1. Paul writes to believers who have been saved by grace through faith and not by their own works (Eph 2.8). What do you think he means therefore by “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”?

2. If we are saved through faith why should we bother with more than that?

3. Why do you think Paul adds the bit in verse 12 about his being present and absent? How can others help us to work out our own salvation?

4. Verse 12 is about us “working out” but verse 13 is about God “working in”. How do these two things go together?

5. How should Christian ethics (our conduct) be determined **both** by obedience (v12) **and** by being concerned “to will and to work for his good pleasure” (v13)?

### **Without grumbling**

#### **Read Philippians 2.14-15**

6. What sort of things in the Christian life are likely to be the cause of people (and us) grumbling or disputing?

7. How are Christians to be different to the world around us?

8. Verse 15 shows a negative view of world and society in which we live (see also Mk 8.18, Acts 2.40 etc). In what ways are Christians today, as in every generation, in danger of being influenced in our ideas and conduct by what is crooked and twisted?

9. How can we seek to be “blameless and innocent” without cutting ourselves off completely from the world around us?

### **Holding fast**

#### **Read Philippians 2.16**

10. What do you think it means to “hold fast to the word of life”?

11. What dangers do we face that can cause us to loosen, or even apparently let go our grip?

12. We looked at the “day of Christ” back in study 1 and question 15. It is the day when Christ comes again as judge. What do these verses in chapter 2 particularly show about why we need to live with that day firmly in our minds?

13. Vain means empty or without purpose. What do you think it means for someone to come the day of Christ and find that their life has been empty and without purpose?

14. How is Paul himself an example of the things he has written about in verse 12 to 16?