

## **Opening Question: In the morning are you more like "Big Bird" or "Oscar the grouch."**

### **Philippians 2:12-18**

Context – Persecution from outside & divisions & arguing within. This passage must be read as a Community exhortation with individual implications.

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

#### ***When you hear the word obedience what do you think of?***

*From the sermon - Obedience in this context is 'Not as in keeping rules but progressively living under Lordship of Christ.'*

#### ***How were you expected to obey as a child and how does this color your view of obedience in this context today?***

*From the sermon - There are two kinds of obedience, performance obedience and sincere obedience; Paul affirms that theirs is the second nature.*

#### ***Does God desire performance obedience?***

#### ***Do you believe that you have everything you need to respond to the spirit of God in any given situation?***

*From the sermon: work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,  
work out = obedience and trust = action*

#### ***How is working out different then working for?***

*from the sermon: Salvation is a gift of God that gets worked out in the details of our lives through the choices that we make. To work out salvation is to make Jesus relevant to every detail of our lives, to allow the influence of the Spirit to affect the deepest places of our hearts and motivations.*

Obedience is choosing to live according the principles of your nature in Christ, in response to the Spirit, in harmony with God's good intent & desire.

#### ***What is fear and trembling?***

From the sermon:

- fear & trembling is not dread of judgment & anger
- more to do with awe of God & deep awareness of our inability.
- Fear & Trembling is the natural response toward life; in fact it's the healthy response when we respond by drawing near to Christ.
- Thus every challenge, hardship, fear or circumstance is ultimately a challenge to Christ in you and is intended to serve as a means for your experiencing God's power and faithfulness.
- "That is to say, it is not the fear and trembling which drives us to hide from God, but rather the fear and trembling which drives us to seek God, in the certainty that without His help we cannot effectively face life." (Barclay 43)

#### ***Emotionally how do respond to the word fear and judgment?***

#### ***Do believe that God is perfectly calibrating your life and all the situations to exhibit Christ in you?***

*Read Philippians 2: 14-16*

**Would your spouse say you're a complainer?**

**What does this verse have to do with trust?**

**How can the Holy Spirit help you 'do everything without grumbling or complaining'?**

**How can we pray together this week?**