

A Life Worth Living
Session 4 May 19 2024 –A New Responsibility
Philippians 2:12-18

Resource: 'A Life worth Living' Video 4

(all videos can be found at woodside-church.org under the Sermons tab)___

Icebreaker: What was the last film, play or music concert you went to – was it good?

Introduction

Read Philippians 2:12-18

Key Point: Our freedom in Christ leads to a new responsibility to live out the gospel Key Verse: “*shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life*” (v.15-16)

Tell each other about an influential Christian in your own journey coming to faith. What was it about them that provoked your interest in what they believed?

1. Responsibility for our own lives (Philippians 2:12-13)

The Point: we all have a responsibility to *work out* the freedom Jesus *works in* us

“*Therefore*” (v.12) means we are obliged to respond to Jesus’ example (2:1-11) “*Salvation*” (v.12) means freedom – freedom and responsibility go hand in hand It’s a critical task (“*fear and trembling*” v.12) to do what God’s specific will is for us It is possible to have a ‘saved soul and a wasted life’

Working out our salvation/freedom means fulfilling our potential as the whole person we were created to be.

What do you think is the difference between “working out” freedom and “working for” freedom?

Are there any areas of your life where you need God’s help to enjoy and explore fully His freedom?

In what ways do you think God is calling you to serve? What would it look like for you to take responsibility for this?

Application: What keeps you from fulfilling your potential at work, in the home, in our relationships? Are you trapped by habits or attitudes that you need God to break?

2. Our Responsibility to Society (Philippians 2:14-16a)

The Point: It is our responsibility and privilege to hold out the gospel to society

(v.15) “crooked” means ‘warped activities’ and “*depraved*” means ‘distorted values’ Our lives should stand out in contrast – like *shining stars* (v.15)

not complaining (v.14) or grumbling against God (see Exodus 15:24; 16:7) not arguing (v.14) or rebelling intellectually against God. Being pure and blameless (v.15) means being good and seen to be good

2. Our Responsibility to Society (Philippians 2:14-16a) continued

There should be a family likeness about our lives (“*children of God*” v.15)

We must “hold out the word of life” (v.16) to the many in society who are dissatisfied because they have never found the relationship with God they were made for.

Think of a situation where you have seen Christians transforming society. How did you see these ideals from Philippians being lived out?

Application: Our values shine through our behavior. What would a stranger conclude you believed about life if they were only able to observe your behavior?

3. Our Responsibility to the Church (Philippians 2:16b-18)

The Point: ministry is pouring ourselves out for others

Paul views all fellow Christians as his friends (v.12)

He loves serving them – he really enjoys it even though it costs him (v.17)

Paul’s attitude is like an athlete who trains even if he doesn’t feel like it (v.16)

He longs for them to know the joy of serving others too (v.18)

How does being Christian change your everyday life?

How do you proclaim the gospel in your everyday life?

If ministry is “pouring out ourselves for others”, how are you already in ministry? How could you grow in this?

Application: Sometimes we can’t wait to serve! Other times we’re tempted not to visit, call or talk to others, or even pray for others, because we don’t feel like it. Pushing onwards in those times communicates our deep motivation of love for others. Who can you show love to this week?

Ideas for Ministry

- Close in prayer, asking God to show how and where we can serve in the Church in an area where most of the time we’d really enjoy. Commit to working with God to overcome any habits, fears or attitudes that get in the way.