

# Obedience to Christ and His Apostles

## Philippians 2:12,13

07/20/14  
by Bob DeWaay

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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We Are Bound by Apostolic Authority

Philippians 2:12 (NASB)  
So then, my beloved, **just as you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling;

- This means that Paul's apostolic teachings are to be obeyed as God's law
- "fear and trembling" is a reference to the OT concept of the fear and reverence toward God
- See Ezra 9:4
- "Work out" is a command in the Greek

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God Works in and Through Believers

Philippians 2:13 (NASB)  
**for it is God who is at work in you**, both **to will** and to work for **His good pleasure**.

- "You" is plural, God is at work in the gathered community (and its individuals)
- "Will" is *thelo* in the Greek = God empowers the *willing* of believers
- God changes us from the inside out, but does so with moral guidance
- "good pleasure" is *eudokia* = God empowers our obedience for His own good pleasure

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**Paul Presses On**

**Philippians 3:12, 13** (NASB)

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I **press on** so that I may **lay hold** of that for which also I **was laid hold of by Christ Jesus**. Brethren, I do **not** regard myself as **having laid hold of it yet**; but one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead**,

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**God's Grace and Paul's Work**

**1Corinthians 15:10** (NASB)

But by the **grace of God I am what I am**, and His **grace** toward me **did not prove vain**; but I **labored** even more than all of them, **yet not I, but the grace of God** with me.

- 1) Grace
- 2) Fruit
- 3) Labor
- 4) Grace

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**The Gospel Changes Us Objectively**

**Ephesians 5:8-10** (NASB)

for you were formerly darkness, but now you are **Light in the Lord**; **walk as children of Light** (for the fruit of the Light consists in all **goodness and righteousness and truth**), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

- "Light" is a spiritual characteristic of believers (John 12:36a)
- John 12:46: I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

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### Implications and Applications

- Christ and His Apostles give objective moral guidance that is to be obeyed
- God works in believers so that they have godly desires that were not there before
- The renewing of our minds by God's Word is a means He uses to change us

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### God Changes Robbers to Givers

Ephesians 4:28 (NASB)

He who steals **must steal no longer**; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

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### God Works in Believers

2Thessalonians 1:11, 12 (NASB)

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and **fulfill every desire for goodness** and the work of faith with power, **so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you**, and you in Him, **according to the grace of our God** and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### God Changes Us by Renewing Our Minds

Romans 12:1, 2 (NASB)

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Obedience to Christ and His Apostles: Philippians 2:12, 13

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