

GLENKIRK CHURCH



WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

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FEBRUARY 2 - 6, 2026



Sermon Series 1/4 – 3/22

Monday

Read **Philippians 2:12-13**

Before we tackle the main question, let's review how we got here. In Philippians 2, Paul is calling the church, us, to work together on behalf of the Lord. He instructs us that we must be of one mind and purpose and humble ourselves so that we become like servants, giving our lives as Christ did for the Gospel (Philippians 2:5-11). This is to the glory of God the Father.

“... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”
(Philippians 2:12b)

Therefore, because of what Christ has done for them, they should always obey the calling of the Lord to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (v. 12). Paul explains that it is God who works in them both to create the desire and power to do it because it pleases God (v. 13). The church is to work together without arguing and grumbling so that the people around us will see us as shining stars in a “warped and crooked” world (v. 15).

Philippians 2:12 is not about doing good works for our salvation. NO! It is about working out the desire and power that we have because of our salvation to do good works. The Greek word rendered “work out” means “to continually work to bring something to completion or fruition.” We do this by actively pursuing obedience in the process of becoming Christlike (Philippians 3:13-14).

The word “fear” in the context of Philippians 2:12 can equally mean “respect” and “reverence.” The “trembling” Paul writes about here is the attitude Christians are to have in demonstrating a healthy fear of offending God through our disobedience and an awesome respect for his majesty and holiness. Trembling causes us to depend upon God. Obedience and submission to the God we revere and respect is our “reasonable service” (Romans 12:1-2) and produces great JOY.

“Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate His rule with trembling.”
(Psalm 2:11)

We “work out” our salvation by going to the source of our salvation—the Word of God—where we renew our hearts and minds (Romans 12:1-2), coming into His presence joyfully with a spirit of reverence and awe. We know that working out our salvation has nothing to do with working to be saved. Instead, it has to do with working for the Lord and others because we are saved! What great joy there is in this great gift of salvation!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”?

PRAYERS

For Sowing Seeds For Life (SSFL)

Pray for the time, talent, and treasure of kind hearts to volunteer with Sowing Seeds For Life, especially to pick up donations and work at the pantry in February so that SSFL can fulfill its mission to help the Lord's people in these trying days.

Tuesday

Read [Philippians 2:13-14](#)

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing.” (Philippians 2:14)

Eeyore, the gray and gloomy donkey from *Winnie the Pooh*, was famous for his pessimistic outlook. He's known for sighing, complaining about losing his tail, and seeing the downside to everything. Do you have an Eeyore-like person in your life? Perhaps you tend to be pessimistic and grumble about our current fault-filled culture. The Bible has a lot to say about complainers who often faced severe consequences, including death (Numbers 11, 14, 21), where God's anger led to consumption by fire, plagues, and poisonous snakes for the Israelites' discontent and lack of faith.

Complaining demonstrates a lack of faith, unbelief, ingratitude, and rebellion against God's good provision. There is a distinction between sinful grumbling and bringing genuine troubles to God in prayer. Many in the Bible brought their troubles to God: David (pouring out complaints in Psalms), Moses (complaining about leading Israel), Jonah (praying from the fish's belly), and Job (questioning God through intense suffering). This reveals a pattern of turning to God in distress, even with anger and doubt. God responded by revealing His presence or providing help.

But sinful complaining and arguing are bad for you and the church. Not only is it contagious, but it can also harm your brain and body, increase stress hormones, and rewire your brain for negativity. The

spiritual impact is in the hardening of the heart as it signals a lack of trust in God and focuses on perceived lack rather than blessings, eroding joy and undermining our relationship with God. I have caught myself complaining about the traffic, weather, and local government without thinking (preparing for these devotionals has been an eye opener). Our words always matter as they reveal what is in our hearts (Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45).

We can respond as instructed in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”* The next time you find yourself complaining, arguing, or grumbling, stop. Pray. Thank God for three things in that situation. We can become a people and a church marked by thankfulness, humility, and the brightness of Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Would you be known more as a contributor or complainer, more filled with praise or grumbling? Why is complaining a problem in the church today?

PRAYERS

[For Sowing Seeds For Life \(SSFL\)](#)

Pray for the grace and passion that comes from helping others—from the volunteers who drive our trucks and deliver food to the elderly to the kind hands who pack food in cars at the pantry for families. May more kind hearts join them in SSFL's mission.

Wednesday

Read **Philippians 2:14; Luke 15:1-2**

One of my favorite chapters in the Bible is Luke 15. In this chapter Jesus teaches three parables about lost things: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal or Lost Son.

In His teaching, Jesus illustrates God's immense joy and active pursuit to find and restore every lost sinner. He emphasizes that heaven rejoices more over one repentant sinner than over many who consider themselves righteous. This teaching highlights that self-righteousness can itself be a form of spiritual lostness.

It is important to recognize that Jesus shared these parables in direct response to the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law, who were grumbling and complaining about His willingness to associate with sinners, as described in Luke 15:2. While the religious leaders voiced their complaints, tax collectors and sinners were gathered around, attentively listening to Jesus.

Complaining in church today remains just as significant an issue as it was in the first century. Whether it takes the form of complaining, venting, muttering, grumbling, criticizing, or whining, these behaviors undermine unity within the congregation and compromise the church's witness to the lost world.

When members of the church complain, it can reveal a lack of trust in God's provision and guidance. Such negativity breeds discontent,

which often leads to division and even burnout among both members and leaders. This can weaken the church's overall mission and affect the spiritual health of the community.

However, it is important to recognize that there is always a place for constructive feedback within the church. When offered with the right heart, honest feedback is valuable for growth and can lead to lasting, positive change.

When we surrender to the Holy Spirit, He develops in us qualities that directly counteract a grumbling or negative attitude. According to Galatians 5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit includes "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." These characteristics stand in stark contrast to a spirit of complaint, which cannot truly exist alongside the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces.

Therefore, as followers of Christ, our words should be a source of encouragement and inspiration—building others up and pointing them toward greater faith and hope in the love and salvation found in Jesus Christ. Our speech ought to reflect the transformation taking place within us, serving as evidence of God's work in our lives.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does Jesus say about complaining? Why is complaining a problem for the church today?

PRAYERS

For Sowing Seeds For Life (SSFL)

Pray for Sowing Seeds For Life to continue to serve those in need through all obstacles, especially in the uncertainty of a new year. Lord, may they receive the blessings of the community so that they can share these with those in need.

Thursday

Read **Philippians 2:15**

There was a recent broadcast of an award show where the reigning “stars” of our popular culture came out in curated evening wear, curated looks and smiles for cameras and applause. When Paul writes to the Philippian church about being “stars that shine,” he was not picturing a red carpet but a church who in unity of purpose, mind, and love is a bright beacon of light in a generation of darkness and evil. Do you believe that the Christian church can be a bright light of hope in a dark and broken world?

Jesus stated, “*I am the light of the world*” (John 8:12). As children of God, we can be the light to the world by being a positive, loving influence, by doing good deeds, by showing compassion, and by living with purpose, essentially being Christlike. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount:

“*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*”
(Matthew 5:14-16)

To shine like stars, we are to live out our faith through obedient, joyful actions, reflecting the love and truth to a dark and broken world by holding firmly to the Word of God, by avoiding grumbling,

arguing and complaining, by being a distinct positive witness through both words and deeds. Serve in the church. What interests or bothers you at church? This can be how the Holy Spirit is calling you to be a part of His work. What God calls you to do, He will also equip you to do. To the Ephesians, Paul wrote: “*Be completely humble and gentle, bearing with one another in love*” (Ephesians 4:2-3).

Don’t hesitate to reach out—form supportive friendships with fellow believers as you commit together to move forward. This will take discipline, sacrifice, and courage, knowing the Holy Spirit is in you providing guidance (John 16:13), and power (Acts 1:8). Like the Star of Bethlehem connected the Magi to Jesus (Matthew 2:1-2), you can connect people to Jesus through your life and testimony. What a joy that is!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Where do you shine best for Jesus? What steps do you want to take to “shine like stars” this year?

PRAYERS

For Sowing Seeds For Life (SSFL)

Pray for the light of the Lord to shine on and direct the programs of Sowing Seeds For Life and those who provide them. Lord, help the staff and volunteers to navigate in trying times, find the light in difficult days, and join hands with loving hearts so that they can continue to do good works while giving all glory to God.

Friday

Read **Philippians 2:17**

The Old Testament describes offerings by ancient Israelites for forgiveness and gratitude. Studying these practices clarifies the importance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross in the New Testament, which is seen as restoring humanity's relationship with God.

"But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you." (Philippians 2:17)

The act of pouring out wine was a ritual performed after a priest had sacrificed a lamb, ram, or bull. The wine was emptied beside the altar as it burned, serving as a powerful symbol of complete dedication in worship to God. This practice reflected the individual's total commitment and surrender to God's will (Exodus 29; Leviticus 23; Numbers 15).

Paul connects the significance of the "drink offering" to his own ministry with the Philippian church. He likens his service to being poured out, expressing his willingness to spend his life, energy, and talents entirely in service to God. Despite writing from a prison cell in Rome, Paul rejoices in the opportunity to dedicate himself fully to God's purpose, even as the Philippian church faces suffering for its faith.

For Paul, the faith of the Philippian church serves as the altar upon which he is poured out. His devotion and sacrificial service exemplify a life wholly given to God, inspired by the steadfast faith of the believers in Philippi.

We can aspire to follow Paul's joyous example by giving of our lives in faithful service of the Gospel and the kingdom of God:

1. Commit to God by telling Him you're ready to be poured out, not just emotionally but by conscious words and deeds.
2. Abide in Christ (John 15:5) by staying connected to draw strength, wisdom, and guidance for selfless service. Apart from Jesus, we can bear no fruit.
3. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are your favorite ways to serve and bless others? How can you "pour out" some of your time, money, or talent to serve your purpose in Christ?

PRAYERS

For Sowing Seeds For Life (SSFL)

Pray continually for SSFL's staff and volunteers and for the clients who rely upon them. Pray that every team member is filled with the Holy Spirit each day and that the Lord gives them spiritual nourishment to sustain them in mind, body, and soul.

