



# Philippians

## Having The Mind of Christ

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## Lesson 6 (Philippians 2:12-18) The Mind of Christ Regarding Obedience

Philippians 2:12-18  
(New King James Version)

12. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
13. for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.
14. Do all things without complaining and disputing,
15. that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
16. holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.
17. Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
18. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

### **Intro**

1. In verses 5-8 the mind of Christ is described. This description was introduced as an example of humility and unselfish service.
2. As described, the mind of Christ was also one of obedience. How far did He go with His obedience?
3. Some suggest that this tells how “He emptied Himself.” He accepted a position as a servant whose only will was to do the will of Him who sent Him (see Hebrews 5:8).
4. Having introduced the obedience of Christ, Paul now applies that lesson to the Philippians. Note the word therefore in verse 12.

### **The Fact of Obedience**

1. What does Paul say they had always done? Do you think this was an acceptance of Paul’s authority or of God’s?
2. What does he urge them to do in his absence?
  - a. What does this suggest about their responsibility for their own salvation?
  - b. What emotional and physical involvements are appropriate to the magnitude of this responsibility?
  - c. What common religious errors do these words refute?
3. Why should Paul’s presence or absence have nothing to do with their obedience?

4. How does God motivate us “to will and to do”?
5. Does verse 13 suggest that man is not responsible for his own salvation?  
Harmonize your response with verse 12.
6. For what reason does God work in us?

**The Manner of Acceptable Obedience**

1. Negatively:
  - a. What would be suggested by murmuring obedience?
  - b. List some other scriptures that indicate how God feels about murmuring.
  - c. What would disputing indicate (this probably means disputing with God)?
2. Positively:
  - a. What three characteristics should we seek as children of God?
    - i.
    - ii.
    - iii.

**Result of Obedience**

1. “In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation”
  - a. He will be \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Does this refer to the church as a whole or to the individual? How do you know?
  - c. How do we achieve this according to verse 16?
2. To Paul
  - a. What would this achievement cause Paul to do?
  - b. When?

**Paul’s Joyful Contribution**

1. What was he willing to be? (Read Exodus 29:38-46; Numbers 15:1-16 and Numbers 28:7-29 and tell what a drink offering was and its purpose.)
2. What attitude did Paul have toward this?
3. What attitude did he want the Philippians to have about his being “poured out”?