



Sermon Notes

Topic: Attitudes That Reveal the Gospel

Preacher: Ps Sam Toms

Bible Passage: Philippians 2:12–18

Date: Sunday 31st August 2025

Study Guide Overview

Salvation is a gift God has worked into us through Christ — but Paul reminds us that it must be *worked out* in daily life. Not by striving to earn God’s approval, but by allowing the reality of the gospel to transform the way we live and the attitudes we carry.

Our attitudes are not small things. They reveal what we truly believe. Complaining, comparison, or cynicism can cloud the light of Christ in us. Gratitude, humility, and joy—even in hard circumstances—make the gospel visible to a watching world.

The good news is that God does not leave us to do this alone: “*For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*” (Phil. 2:13) As we yield to His Spirit, salvation inside us shines outward through the way we think, speak, and respond.

Bottom Line: Success in God’s kingdom is not measured in comfort but obedience—and one of the clearest ways we obey is by choosing attitudes that reflect the good news of Jesus.

Small Group Questions/Discussions

Theme: *Choosing Attitudes that Reveal Salvation*

Text: Philippians 2:12–18

1. Opening Reflection

- Think of someone whose attitude made the gospel attractive to you. What stood out about them?

2. Read Philippians 2:12–18

- What does it mean to “work out your salvation”?
- Why does Paul immediately connect salvation with attitudes like grumbling and rejoicing?



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Small Group Questions/Discussions

3. Reflective Attitude Struggles (Unusual List)

Here are some less-obvious attitudes believers often struggle with. Discuss where you see yourself in these:

1. **Subtle Cynicism** – Smiling on the outside, but inwardly skeptical that God will actually show up.
2. **Spiritual Pessimism** – Expecting the worst outcome, even in prayer, to avoid disappointment.
3. **Invisible Entitlement** – Thinking, “After all I’ve done for God, I deserve better than this.”
4. **Emotional Withholding** – Holding back joy, kindness, or encouragement because “others haven’t earned it.”
5. **Quiet Resentment** – Not outwardly grumbling, but carrying a low-grade bitterness that leaks out in tone.
6. **Performative Positivity** – Acting cheerful around others but not allowing God to address the heaviness beneath.
7. **Comparison Gratitude** – Only thankful when life looks better than someone else’s, rather than because of Christ.
8. **Calculated Service** – Serving, but with an inner tally of how much it costs or when it’s someone else’s “turn.”
9. **Selective Joy** – Rejoicing only in blessings, but not in trials, even though Paul’s joy came in chains.
10. **Polite Distance** – Keeping people at arm’s length to avoid friction, instead of pressing into unity.

4. Discussion Questions

- Which of these unusual struggles do you resonate with most?
- How do these attitudes hinder our ability to “shine like stars in the world”?
- What practices (gratitude, confession, worship, Scripture) help us replace them with Christlike attitudes?
- How does remembering that “it is God who works in you” change how we approach our attitudes?

5. Application Challenge

- Identify one hidden attitude struggle you want to surrender this week.
- Each day, pray: “God, work in me to will and to act according to Your good purpose.”
- Share next week how God helped you reveal salvation through your attitude.