

MESSAGE

Deep: Changed with God

JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING | PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13 | JANUARY 9/10, 2016 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you."

(Philippians 2:12-13)

Jesus the Savior: Saved from Death's Depths

Jesus the Reconciler: Opened to God's Depths

Jesus the Life Changer: Growing to Christ's Depths

STUDY GUIDE

1. When have you experienced the need for a total change in your life? What led you to that place and what happened next?
2. We continue our series, "Jesus Changes Everything," by looking at two verses from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi found in Philippians 2:12-13. Begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak into your life, and then read Philippians 2:1-18 aloud.
3. The Apostle Paul is writing from prison to the believers in Philippi about their life with God. He begins chapter 2 by expressing his desire for them to be in unity as a community by relating to one another selflessly (2:1-4). Jesus is an obvious illustration of what this looks like (2:5-11). He then returns to his discussion of their life together as a community beginning in verse 12 with a call to obedience. Why do you think Paul begins this next section with the theme of obedience? To whom are they to be obedient? What does that obedience look like?
4. Verse 12 continues with the call to "work out your salvation." From Paul's other writings we know that this does not mean "work for your salvation" (see Ephesians 2:1-10). What do you think this phrase means?
5. Paul says that they are to work out their salvation "with fear and trembling." What does fear and trembling have to do with this sort of work?
6. With verse 13, Paul clarifies that, of course, we must rely on God to do this and to fulfill God's purposes in our lives. How does the knowledge of God's work in our lives encourage you in the process of growing with God?
7. Last week, Pastor Mark Lynch talked from John 2 about how Jesus changed water into wine, and how that illustrates how Jesus changes everything about our lives. What is one area that you know you need God to change in your life? Take a moment to pray, simply expressing to God your desire to put that area of your life into His hands. Sit quietly and surrender every aspect of the situation, every person involved, every feeling you have, every timeline... Simply ask Him to take it all and transform you.
8. What is one specific way that you sense God is calling you to grow more deeply with Him these days? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray about what you share together. If you are studying on your own, write it down, pray about it, and share this with someone during the next few days.

[Next week: We continue the "Jesus Changes Everything" series with a look at what it means to be wide in our love for people. Join us!]