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Philippians chapter two verses 16 through 18, let's pray. Our father we ask that you would help us now to hold fast to Christ. By the means by which you have given us to do that. Holding fast to words. Knowing that through them, you are giving us the Lord Jesus's eternal life.

And we pray that you would set him and his glory. And the blessedness of being openly acknowledged as your children. For unending ages before us so that we might. Find this worthy of strenuous effort. And worthy of great rejoicing.

So grant your spirits ministry to us not only that we would have understanding. But that these your words would come home to our hearts. Which we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

Well verse 16 picks up in the middle of the sentence that we begin last week in verses 14 and 15. So we'll read verses 14 and 15 and then we'll go into our text and verses 16 through 18 in Philippians chapter 2. Do all things without complaining and disputing 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.

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. 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.

For the same reason you also be glad. And rejoice with me.

So far the words of God. Well as we picked up in the middle of the sentence we were thinking about sanctification and how we grow and our family resemblance as children of God and then and therefore grow in our distinction from a world that is crooked and perverse and that one of the main ways we remember from last week that that shows up in our lives is by the killing the mortification the killing of the sin of having a grumbling and complaint complaining heart.

Are coming to verse 16 there's a how to do this and then there's the strenuous effort that is worth putting into this and then there's the great rejoicing that is worth doing over this and that we can start start upon even now, although we're not yet in the day of Christ the the first how is holding fast.

The word of life one of the things that the Holy Spirit does for us as he is giving us spiritual life and bringing us to faith in Jesus Christ is that he convinces us that the Bible having the Bible is worth the loss of just about anything else that the Bible is the very words of God and the words by which God is giving us eternal life so that we will do similarly to what the disciples did when the rest of that generation that just wanted their flesh, please and Jesus had refused.

To repeat the feeding of the 5,000 for them you remember they chased him around the lake and. And they're trying to talk him into reopening the buffet as it were and you know, what sign do you prove you do to prove who you are Moses gave our fathers man and the wilderness but on that particular day.

Jesus was presenting them just with himself said my father gives you I am the bread of life my father gives you the bread of life which comes down from heaven and he was saying look to me believe in me. Feet upon me as your living bread as it were and you will never die if you eat of this bread you will live and never die and of course they just were like when James chapter 4 living for their own pleasure and not to please the Lord Jesus, although they were giving lip service in out of the idea that maybe they could get something out of him and of course he kept increasing the intensity unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood.

You have no life in you and so far and eventually there are so offended they all left and Jesus turns to his disciples and he says about you are you going to leave too and you remember what Peter said where would we go Lord? You have the words of eternal life and now what the apostle is urging the Philippian church to do is to be clinging to the word of God with with that desire and that conviction that if the whole world turned against them and was leaving Christ they would stick to Christ because he's the one who has his works.

This is how of sanctification Christ is the one who sanctifies us we cannot be sanctified by the the the greatness of our strenuous effort is we're about to hear in a moment. Christ is the one who's sanctifies us and he's given us a means of clinging to him which is clinging to his word when you hear someone start to draw a distinction as oh you guys are so serious about theology.

I just want to love Jesus. Well the Jesus of the Bible that Jesus who can save you is the one who gives you to cling to him by clinging to his word and if you think that clinging to his word and being serious about his word is somehow in competition with resting upon Jesus clinging to Jesus loving Jesus, then the Jesus who is the object of all of those phrases is a different different Jesus than the one in the Bible he exists as a figment of your and others imagination.

And he can do nothing for you and you gain nothing by loving and trusting in and clinging do such a Jesus as that so he's given to us to cling to

him first of all by clinging to his word and it's not easy there's lots of strenuous effort involved on both the those who preach and teach his word and the parts of those who read and hear his word and the apostle uses effort words holding fast to the word of eternal life say that I may rejoice in the day of Christ when I see, You that you have held fast to Christ by means of holding fast as word and he by his word has made you children of God without fault in your playlist and you're pure in that day that I have not run in vain or labored in vain so he says I have been putting forth strenuous effort running laboring these are effort words action words and efforts there's effort and action in the Christian life.

So those who want to set faith over against effort are not describing the faith of the Bible because the faith of the Bible doesn't depend upon effort. But it certainly puts forth effort there are those who depend upon their effort and if you depend on your effort, you will you may run and you may labor but it will be in vain.

And if the apostle Paul put forth this effort running and laboring and instead of holding fast to the words of eternal life, the Philippians were even holding fast to their own efforts then on the last day, they would not be blameless and pure would they. There would be about.

Some unsaved self-righteous legalists. Whose righteousness is nothing before God, in fact have all of it is wickedness and the righteousness and glory of Jesus would destroy them forever. And the apostles running in laboring as far as it touched preaching and teaching the word to them would have been in vain as far as it concerns them so sanctification is worth effort but you can put effort into the wrong thing and it will be empty so holding faster the worldwide so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that have not run in vain or labored in vain but then he says something in verse 17 that makes it sin we might have thought.

In verse 16 that he was saying that he is the one who puts in the effort and they just sit under the preaching of Paul or receive the teaching of Paul just soak it all up and you know, I've sat under preaching and teaching that I just wanted to soak all up and the enjoyment of having the word open and brought home to the heart but there's effort that needs to be made and responds to the word there's effort in giving yourself to the word and there's effort in responding to the word and you can see that in the comparison between the two.

Parts of the offering in verse 17, he's using a word picture that's borrowed from the Old Testament in which in which there's the the sacrifice that's made you you bring the sacrifice and you cut it up and you drain the blood you throw the bloody alter your range of pieces and and you've burn it all up and then you pour the drinking off drink offering on top.

Well which part does he say his effort is? Just the drink part on top right so if he's just used strenuous effort words to describe his preaching and teaching the word of life to them and then he turns around he says, but actually my part is the little part.

You are to be putting into this holding fast the word of life by comparison the main sacrifice and service part of this offering picture that he's using you see how he uses his effort words to turn around on us and say look at how hard God expects you to run and work in holding fast to his word.

Now it's not because the hardness of our running or the hardness of our working is what produces the life it's the word by Christ it's Christ by the word who produces the life but it is worthy of the effort and we are commanded to the effort. So holding fast the word of life the house sanctification and it's worth great effort but it's also worth great rejoicing.

What's one of the reasons that Paul is willing to put in this this effort one of the reasons is he loves the glory of Jesus king of kings. Lord of lords still ringing in our ears from just a few verses ago, he loves the glory of Jesus but he also loves these ones that Jesus glorifies himself by dying for and by sanctifying he can't wait for those Philippian believers to have their sanctity sanctification be completed and on the day of Christ that they will shine like the sun he says, I am going to rejoice.

So much in that day out of not just what you have become but the fact that the labor that Jesus gave me to do he was pleased to use in producing what has happened to you at that day, and as I rejoice for you you'll rejoice for me because we love one another and we we love Christ and so this rejoicing theme this rejoicing note or theme is struck it these three times actually in the passage not only for 16 so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, but after he gives this if I am being, Poured as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, he repeats it.

I am glad and rejoice with you all yes. I might be spent but you better be spending yourselves too. Yeah. We can very easily memorize, you know, some of these favorite verses like Romans 12:1, therefore brethren by the mercies of God, I urge you to offer your bodies as living sacrifices and it sounds like a nice sweet thing.

A living sacrifice is. Well the the old creature said, you know the problem with living sacrifices is they like to crawl off the altar? When you are sacrificed you have renounced all right to yourself you have given yourself entirely given yourself entirely up unto God and so this this language of sacrifice he says well even if I am a sacrifice on top of your sacrifice, I am glad and rejoice with you all so verse 16, so I may rejoice in the day of Christ for 17th.

I am glad and rejoice with you all and then then verse 18 for the same reason you also be glad and rejoice. With me that part of what he will receive the joy that he will receive on the last day is that he got to be used in their Christian growth and he on the way to being perfected by the day of Christ or in the day of Christ when he says don't you also in your Christian love to me want me to have the joy that I will have in that day, don't you delight in the idea dear Philippians of seeing the apostle Paul and the day of Christ rejoicing and, So there's this there's this wonderful sharing of joy like we were thinking this morning about the sharing of glory and how you can't have that unless Christ has all the glory otherwise you've got to divide up the glory and we fight one another for it, well there's also this wonderful sharing of joy all of us rejoicing in Christ being glorified we rejoicing in Christ being glorified in those whom he is sanctified in part through the ministry that we had to them, they rejoicing in our rejoicing in the part that God gave us in the ministry to them and this works.

Of course not. Just elder and pastor teacher to to those whom they're teaching the word of life that they that they hold fast to but even that

ministry we learn from Ephesians 4 several months ago now is one designed for each of us to be a joint that supply something each of us to be a part of the body that has a share in the building up of the whole and ahead that it into the head who is Jesus so that he sets before he says see what great rejoicing.

Sanctification is worthy of how we ought to delight in the end result at which Christ is aiming through us which joy we can relish even now as we look forward to it while we're putting in the strenuous effort some of the Lord bless this word to us make us hold fast to this part of the word of life so that we may count pursuit of holiness as worth the strenuous effort and see it already as worth great rejoicing over.

Let's pray. Thank you lord for this portion of your word, thank you for the love that you give believers not only for your own glory, but for one another and we quiet to you us to us to give us that love for your glory that desires to cling to you that clings to you that cleans to your word that desires that you would be glorified and those whom you have saved not only by forgiving and but by also sanctifying.

Make us to love for one another to appear as children of God and blameless and pure make us to love that we might have a part in that work that you do and one another's lives and make us to rejoice over what you are doing we pray in Jesus name amen.