

Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 17-18



Philippians 2:3-5

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

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Philippians 2:5-14 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;



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Philippians 2:14-16 1

4 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

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Why is the absence of “grumbling and disputing” amongst believers is so significant to Paul?

“to you it has been granted for Chrst’s sake not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.” (1:29)

“grumbling and disputing” is the “normal” fleshly response to suffering.

If the Church responds with the character of Christ in the face of trials, it is very noticeable!

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A lack of fruit does not make a believer any less a believer!

A fruitful life is the intended and desired aim for every believer.

Wuest - “work out” (v12) - to carry out to the goal, to carry to its ultimate conclusion

Paul was always cultivating believers to grow and produce fruit.

If they didn't, then Paul felt that his work was “vain” (without a fruitful result)



Philippians 2:17-18

17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. 18 You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

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**17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering
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17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith...

What does that English word “but” do in our thinking?

$\alpha\lambda\lambda\alpha$ = “but” (in most cases)

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Context:

**v16 – Paul’s running and toiling were NOT in vain.
(worthwhile)**

If “but” connects v16 and 17, then...

v17 – Paul’s pouring out is in vain (wasted)

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If “but” connects v16 and 17, then...

v17 – Paul’s pouring out is in vain (wasted)
(implying that the Philippians have *not* responded by faith,
and there is no manifestation of the life of Christ.)

Would Paul rejoice in this?!?

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17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith...

Grammar: ἀλλὰ εἰ καὶ

Related to the preceding words in such a way that it serves to introduce...

1. Opposition
2. Objection
3. Exception
4. Restriction

or

5. an ascensive transition or gradation, **nay rather, yea moreover**: [John 16:2](#); [2 Corinthians 1:9](#); especially with **καί** added, [Luke 12:7](#); [Luke 16:21](#); [Luke 24:22](#).

(ascensive: having the propensity to move in an upwards direction)

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Not only is my “running” and “toil” **not in vain**. But (ἀλλὰ) even my “pouring out”, is **not in vain**!

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KJV - Yea, and if...

NKJV - Yes, and if... (also HNV)

Wuest - If fact, if also...

Miles D - Yes! Even if I am being poured out...

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**17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering
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What does Paul mean by being “poured out as a drink offering?”

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2 Timothy 4:6

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

The life of the flesh is in the blood. (Lev 17:11)

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**What does it mean to be poured out as a drink offering
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What does it mean to be poured out as a drink offering “upon the sacrifice and service of your faith?”

Wuest: [σπένδω was] used in the pagan Greek religions, of the drink offering poured upon the sacrifice itself, the latter being the major part of the offering to the gods, and the former, the minor part.

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minor part = σπένδω = drink offering (Paul's life)

MAJOR PART = θυσία & λειτουργία = sacrifice & service

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17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith...

“The LORD smelled the soothing aroma.” (Gen 8:21)

God’s pleasure or satisfaction is always what is in view in sacrifice.

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So what is it in us that is pleasing or satisfying to God?

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For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

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For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies **a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable [well pleasing] to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (Rom 12:1)

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“faith” and “you” are in the genitive case

Preceded by the definite article.

“of the faith of you (plural)”

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17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith...

Philippians 1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith.

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Philippians 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

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“The faith” often seems to be a reference to the objective reality of our position in Christ.

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17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith...

“The faith” = **objective reality** of **our position in Christ.**

Philippians 3:9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of the faith,

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Righteousness that gives us a standing with God is provided on the basis of two things. First, it is based on our position, i.e., *may be found in Him*. Second, it is based on our faith.

- Chester McCalley

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17b&18 ...I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

This rejoicing is the “apodosis” or the result of the conditional clause. (referring back to the “if” in verse 17)

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1st class condition

On the basis of the fact that I am being poured out as a drink offering, I rejoice!

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17b&18 ...I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

**I rejoice and rejoice together with you all.
In the same way,
You also rejoice! And rejoice together with me!**

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“So that (in Christ) you will be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world!”