

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

#### **Questions:**

- 1) Why is obedience “proper, possible and purposeful”?
- 2) How are you doing in your pursuit of obedience to Jesus in your life? Where do you need to be convinced afresh to obedience to Christ?
- 3) What does it mean to “will” before we “act” in obedience?
- 4) Do you have an example of when God’s strength supplemented your obedient actions?
- 5) How can we show character and integrity to this present generation?