

Mini Series “Growing In Christ”
Just Don't Go Through The Motions Part 3
Philippians 2:17-18

Introduction:

Self Sacrifice – is an act of offering ourselves to God in the service of our faith, or in the service of the faith of others. It may be of time, energy, money, or even life itself.

I. Speaking in the Present Tense v.17a

- a. “Even If” speaks of a present tense as “Since or Because”
- b. Paul was referring to his life not only his death.
- c. Paul was a true living sacrifice Rom 12:1

II. Paul’s Life Service v.17b

- a. This is a reference to Paul’s sacrificial life
- b. He’s not complaining about his circumstances
- c. Being poured out in the service of God for His kingdom and His people was his ultimate goal 2 Cor 12:15

III. Topping off of a Greater Sacrifice v.17c

- a. Paul saw his service to the Philippians as a drink offering
- b. Paul spoke with the imagery of an actual animal sacrifice which the Philippians understood well.

Please Turn Over

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IV. Philippians Sacrifice Deemed Greater v.17d

- a. Paul saw the Philippians sacrifice greater than his own life being poured out
- b. The Philippians had opposition Phil 1:28
- c. The Philippians suffered for Christ Phil 1:29
- d. They had the same conflicts as Paul Phil 1:30
- e. This is a powerful point of humility Phil 2:3

V. Joy in Sacrificial Service v.17e

- a. This is not joy in spite of suffering, It's joy because of suffering for Christ.
- b. Highest expressions of Paul's life was to give himself as a sacrifice Col 1:24

VI. Same Conflict – Same Joy v.18

- a. Paul encourages the Philippians to rejoice
- b. For they were going through the same persecution and opposition as Paul
- c. The Philippians had put their life on the altar and Paul poured his life on top of theirs
- d. Because of their great sacrifice for the Gospel of Christ comes the greatest depth of Joy in the Lord.

And the reason so many believers know so little about this level of joy is because we know nothing about this level of sacrifice.