



Bob Chisholm

“Remodel”
Philippians 2
Small Group Plan

Several years ago, **Newsweek** carried an article entitled, “Advice to a (Bored) Young Man.”

*Many people reading this page are doing so with the aid of bifocals. Inventor? **B. Franklin**, age 79. The presses that printed this page were powered by electricity. One of the first harnessers? **B. Franklin**, age 40. Some are reading this on the campus of one of the Ivy League universities. Founder? **B. Franklin**, age 45. Others, in a library. Who founded the first library in America? **B. Franklin**, age 25. Some got their copy through the U. S. Mail. It’s father? **B. Franklin**, age 31.*

*Now, think fire. Who started the first fire department, invented the lightning rod, designed a heating stove still in use today? **B. Franklin**, ages 31, 43, 36.*

Wit. Conversationalist. Economist. Philosopher. Diplomat. Favorite of the capitals of Europe. Journalist. Printer. Publisher. Linguist (spoke and wrote five languages). Advocate of paratroopers (from balloons) a century before the airplane was invented. All this until age 84. And he had exactly two years of formal schooling.

Franklin is one of our national fathers who both inspires and challenges us. As Mark Twain once said, “Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.”

So far in our study, Momentum, the Philippians have been given two examples. Both inspired and challenged them. Their primary example is Jesus, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (2:5). But they were also given the secondary example of Paul, “not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence” (2:12).

Good examples help us to work harder and reaching higher. We can actually see what to do. But just how willing are we to follow our examples? How much will we open up? How far will we follow their purpose? How deeply will we accept their goals?

Will we allow our lives to be “Remodeled?”

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What gives you more spiritual motivation: guilt, duty, fear or gratitude? Explain.
- Which is a best motivator? Explain.

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— THERE IS A PURPOSE TO ACHIEVE —

Philippians 2:12, 14-16a

¹²Therefore, 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 ... ¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so 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 ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life.

- What is the difference between obeying “in my presence” and “in my absence”?
- Why does Paul use the words “much more” to describe obedience in his absence?
- What does Paul mean when he says, “work out your salvation”?
- What does a complaining attitude do to the complaining believer?
- What does it do to those who hear or receive the complaints?
- How does “grumbling” and “arguing” impact our mission to “shine like stars”?

— THERE IS A POWER TO RECEIVE —

PHILIPPIANS 2:13

for it is God who works in you
to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

- What difference does it make to think of “you” as “all of you, collectively”?
- How does God work in all of us, collectively?
- How does God work in each of us, individually?
- Why are both important?

— THERE IS A PROMISE TO BELIEVE —

Philippians 2:16b-18

¹⁶And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷But 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. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

- Why was Paul willing to be “poured out” like a “sacrifice” (v. 17)?
- What brought joy to Paul (v. 17b)?
- What is Paul asking of the Philippians when he tells them to “be glad and rejoice” in the same way that he is rejoicing (v. 18)?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How can we show reverence and awe — “*fear and trembling*” (v. 12) — for God’s work in our fellowship and our community?
- What can we do to bring our fellowship more into harmony with the “*will*” and “*good purpose*” of God (v. 13)?
- In what situations are you tempted to “*grumble*” and “*argue*”? What decisions could you make that would lead to positive change?
- To be a star that consistently shines (v. 15) we must care about the effect we have on others. How can we become more aware of our influence on others?
- Do you see yourself as a single star or as a part of a larger constellation of unified ministry? Explain the difference.
- Think of a Christian who invested in your spiritual growth as Paul did for the Philippians? How did they do it? Give them a call or write them a note of thanks.
- Close by thanking God for the example of Jesus, Paul and other Christians in your life. Pray for the courage to be an example for others.