*"…[F]or it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Phil.2:13*

## Introduction

*Questions to ask at your table:*

- What's something that brought you joy this week?
- Describe a place/situation in which you need HOPE right now.
- Describe one teaching of Jesus that is difficult to do? Why is it difficult?
- Describe a situation from this week that caused you to grumble.

## **Chapter 2 -** Humility and Obedience - Continued

Read Chapter 2:

- What stands out:

Jesus Sets the Pattern…We Imitate the Pattern (v. 12-16)

- Why is it important to pay attention to the word ***therefore***?

- St. Paul is calling for the _____ of God's people in Philippi (and HCLC) by _____ _____ _____.

    - Ephesians 2:8-9:

    - Luther's Explanation of the 2nd Article of Apostles' Creed: *"What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has _____ me, _____ me and _____ me from all sins, death,*

*and the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."*[i]

- **But also** Luther's explanation of the 3rd article of the Apostles' Creed: *"What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, our come to Him; but the Holy Spirit…"*[ii]

- What Paul I**SN'T** talking about:

- Ephesians 2:8-10:

- Yes, St. Paul means it. Do Πάντα ποιεῖτε -

*For your table:*

- Is this possible? Why or Why not?
- Does St. Paul think it's possible?
- Why does the ***therefore*** (v. 12) help us?

- All of this stands against a _____ and _____ generation.

*For your table:*

- What do you think St. Paul means when he describes the ***generation*** that way?
- We are called to be *"in the midst"* of that generation. What do you think St. Paul is trying to emphasize?

- John 1:4, 9, 14:

- John 8:12:

- Matthew 5:13-16:

[i] Luther, Martin *The Small Catechism*, Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis, p. 17
[ii] Ibid.

- Matthew 28:18-20:

- Paul is really clear - all of this is NOT possible unless one "holds fast" (v. 16). Here, the word literally means ***cling to (and keep clinging to)***.

*For your table:*

- What are ways we can cling to (and keep clinging to) the Word of Life?
- What gets in the way of our active "clinging to" Jesus?
- What do we need in order to avoid those hurdles which keep us from "clinging to" Jesus?

- All of this: ***so that***…

  - What does St. Paul mean when he talks about *the day of Christ?*

  - It what way does this verse relate to 1:18 and 2:2?

A Bit of Conclusion –

## A Last Word

*Questions for the table:*

- What stood out today?
- What from this text is encouraging? What's challenging?
- What's one prayer request you can share with your table?

**FOR NEXT TIME:** Chapter 2 – the stuff that's left.