

Evaluation of Joe Smith's Exegesis Paper on Philippians 2:12-16
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Philippians 2:12-16 *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*

The exegesis paper was very well done. Mr. Smith shows great competence in both analyzing the text and utilizing it for sound doctrinal instruction. The paper met all the parameters and requirements set forth in the GLGP Student Handbook.

The writer addresses the text, authorship, audience, occasion and purpose of the epistle. There is a thorough outline of the whole epistle provided. At length, Mr. Smith deals competently with the textual analysis. The analysis is not done in isolation from the rest of the epistle and its doctrinal themes. The paper is written with excellent exegesis keeping a clear message as to the doctrinal truths from the passage. Sound linguistic and doctrinal sources are incorporated in the one hundred and six footnotes.

A sermon outline and applicators meditation is provided as well as a word study “εὐδοκία” (good pleasure) at the end of the paper which is very accessible to the lay reader.

Mr. Smith confirms the historical and reformed understanding of these passages that underscore the importance of growing in one's sanctification is intimately linked to obedience to the Lord. He instructs the reader that we are not passive in this called life to holiness but must strive for it like an Olympic athlete seeking his prize. The grace and sovereignty of God are at work in the believer to accomplish this great work of sanctification. The Lord works mightily through the humility (a grace of God) of his people, doing his good work of salvation.

We highly recommend the sustaining of this paper by the presbytery. Mr. Joe Smith has proven himself able and competent in his exegesis of the Greek text.