

Title: "Rules of Engagement"

Text: Philippians 2:12-18

Target: We as the people of God have been given an opportunity like never before, to engage a world searching for answers. Not that we are the answer, but we know the ONE who is the answer. Therefore, to effectively share our hope with those who need it, it is important to be reminded of the directives of His plan and purpose.

THERE IS...

I. Call to Work Out: (Vs. 12)

A. **Passionate Pursuit:** *"work out"*

Note: "**Work**"- sustained effort and diligence to engage in bringing something to completion or fulfillment.

B. **Personal Possession:** *"your own"*

C. **Profound Praise:** *"fear and trembling"*

Note: "**Fear**" is an understood reverence. "**Trembling**" is to be in awe of.

II. Comfort to Rest In: (Vs. 13)

A. **His Purpose:** *"it is God"*

Key Reference: Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-5

B. **His Power:** *"works in you"*

Note: "**Work(s)**" is the Greek word *energeo*, giving us the word "energy".

Key Reference: Ephesians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:24

C. **His Pleasure:** *"for his good pleasure"*

III. Command to Shine On: (Vs. 14-15)

A. **Not Complain:** *"without grumbling or disputing" (14)*

Note: "**Grumbling**"- dissatisfaction with God. "**Disputing**"- distorted view of God.

B. **Not Conform:** *"blameless, innocent, without blemish" (15)*

C. **Not Conceal:** *"in the midst of" (15)*

Note: “Crooked”- The Greek word is *Skolios* meaning “bent, curved, off center”
“Twisted”- To lead astray, confuse or disconnect.

IV. Challenge to Hold Up: (Vs. 16)

- A. **Know the Word:** *“Holding fast (fix your attention on)”*
- B. **Make the Word Known:** *“in the day of Christ I may be proud...”*

Take Away: God has done the work for your salvation, giving you the power to live out your salvation, for you to live a life offering to the world the possibility of salvation. The hinge of this door of opportunity we have been given is obedience without fear.