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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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How to Be a Star
Philippians 2:12-18
Series: The Joy Factor

Central Passage

Philippians 2:12–18 (ESV) — **12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but 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 work for his good pleasure. **14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. **17** Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. **18** Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 2:15 (NIV) — **15** so 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...**

Central Thoughts

Positive: Our unity, based on our mutual submission to the way of Jesus, is like a bright star shining in the in the dark night of the self-centered, conflicted world in which we live, lighting the way to Life.

Negative: Our disunity, fueled by our self-centered grumbling and complaining, is like a black hole sucking everything into its own, certain Death.

Hebrews 3:7–19 (ESV) — **7** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, **8** do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, **9** where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. **10** Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' **11** As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" **12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. **15** As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." **16** For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? **17** And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? **19** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Exodus 15:22–24 (ESV) — **22** Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. **23** When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. **24** And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV) — **28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) — **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Homework

- ❖ Prayerfully read through Philippians.
- ❖ Repent of self-centered ways, and turn to Jesus!