Scripture Reading for July 18, 2021

**Phillipians 2:12-13 (NRSV)**

**12**Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13**for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Phillipians 2:12-13 (The Message)**

**12-13**What I’m getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you’ve done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I’m separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God’s* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

In this letter to the Philippians, Paul is telling them to keep up the good work they did when he was there by continuing to live obediently. In fact, he tells them to double their efforts. It isn’t enough to will the spread of God’s word; they have to actively spread the Word. God works through them, just as he works through Paul. He encourages them to be energetic in spreading God’s will because God’s energy is working through them to do His will.