

## YOU ARE THE LIGHT

(Philippians 2:14-16)

Series: "Philippians: The Joyful Letter" (Part 14)

...The Bible opens with the book of *Genesis* and provides us with God's account of ultimate origins. As creation unfolded, God, who we are told is light, created light in His universe. Light is an amazing thing. Nothing in the entire universe is faster than light. It travels at 186,000 miles a second and this means that a beam of light can travel  $7\frac{1}{2}$  times around the earth in one second.

...When Jesus came into the world He taught that He was the light of the world. Our dark depraved world was penetrated by the Light of heaven in Jesus. (John 8:12) Wherever He went the light shone forth.

...Today if you know Jesus as Savior, then you too are His light in this dark place. You don't produce this light; it is produced in and through you by the Holy Spirit as you live for Jesus by "Working out your own salvation..." It is God's will for you to shine forth for Him. You are the light. Without you, the world would be even darker!

### TWO SPECIFIC GOALS AS YOU WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION IN THE MIDST OF A VERY DARK WORLD. ...We are in the world, but not of the world. Shine!

- I. **The Submissive Life: As We Daily Live Life, We Are To Be Submissive To God. (v.14)** "Do all things without grumbling or disputing."
- A. We are to be submissive to God and the evidence of our submission is to be... an attitude of life that does all things without complaining or arguing. "All" means all things. No wiggle room here!
1. The word for "questioning" (ESV) is the word that refers to inward reasoning of the mind and is the basis of the English word "dialogue."  
...A good word in our day, but this meant the reasoning within the human heart in rebellion against God's will.
  2. The word for "grumbling" is what occurs when our rebellious reasoning begins to express itself externally. This is an audible expression of dissatisfaction. Mumbling. (goggusmos)(GK)...In English we get the word "gong" from this word.
- B. Complaining or grumbling is mentioned throughout Scripture.
1. Jesus told of those who grumbled at God and others: (Matthew 20:1-16; Luke 5:30)
  2. In the Old Testament the word "Grumbling" often described the rebellion of the people of Israel during the years of wandering in the wilderness...they complained while in Egypt, and later in the wilderness. They grumbled for 40 years, and when they got to the Promised Land they were still grumbling. (Deuteronomy 32)
- C. Many of us are like that. God blesses us, but there is always something we do not like about it.  
...We must get out of the habit of arguing or complaining when God asks us to do something. Just do it! When God says that we are to do something, we are to do it because we trust Him and want to obey the One who knows what is really best for His children.  
... When we do this, the light of Jesus shines more brightly through us.
- II. **The Blameless Life: As We Live Among Others We Must Be Blameless. (vv.15-16)**  
...The second goal is horizontal as it deals with our relationships with people.
- A. The word "pure" means to be without mixture. It was used in metallurgy to talk about pure gold.  
...Just as arguing with God is internal, so this purity is within the heart of the person.  
...In this sense our lives are to be without mixture before others. We are to be above board in our business dealings. We are not to say one thing and do another.

- B. We are to be without "Blame." This does not mean without sin, but that we have sought to right and make right the wrongs we have done. The internal characteristic of purity typically is expressed in being blameless. Remember Daniel, who lived in the midst of ungodly Babylon. ...His enemies could only find something against Him in his walk with the Lord. (Daniel 6:5)
- C. This is a process that will go on throughout life. It is not going to be easy. Impossible? Our God is the God of the impossible. (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12-14; Romans 12:2) What do these verses mean? They mean we are incapable of living out the kind of life that God requires, but that God is capable of living out that life in us when we yield to His Spirit. ...God wants you to submit to His Spirit, allowing Him to make you a light in the darkness of this world. We are to be blameless and pure both before others and before God. All the while holding out "the Word of Life" (Gospel) to others. Shine forth.

### SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

1. Daily work out your own salvation by yielding to the Holy Spirit and His work and purposes in your life. This is the only way you are enabled to be the light of the world. You cannot do this in your own power. Impossible! Do this and you will shine for Him.
2. As you live the submissive and blameless life, the light of Christ will really radiate through you. People will see Jesus in you, though they will not know what it is that makes you different. As you do this, your life will bring the light...His love and grace, to others. As your life touches others, they will be blessed.
3. While daily yielding your life to the Lord, and then as you share the "Word of life" with those who know you...it will have a powerful effect upon them. God will use you to help others come to saving faith in Jesus. For your life and your witness will match and provide a powerful witness to the lost.
4. Have you come to the Cross and seen the Savior who gave His life in payment for sin? He died as the Substitute, He died in our place. Salvation is not automatic; you must ask Him to be your Lord and Savior by placing your trust in Him. Turn from your sin, and run to Him and He will save you forever.