

Better Together #5 Philippians 2:12-18

Slide 1 - Feedback/Interact

Slide 2 - Title slide

Slide 3 - 1st Century Philippi

- Colony of largely ex-Roman soldiers - living in their reward
- Via Egnatia - one of main roads from Macedonia to Rome
- Acts 16:6-40
 - Paul there after HS does not allow him into Asia
 - Told in dream to go to Philippi
 - First church Paul founded in Europe

Slide 4 - Letter of Encouragement

- Written somewhat in response to the church's latest gift to his ministry
 - Patron-client relationship
 - Think "missionary support" letter
- Also to encourage them to progress in faith
 - Different flavor than most his letters in which he is addressing an issue within a church, divisions, an incorrect theology, etc.
- Pastor Paul takes Jesus' words, actions, life, example and applies it to his congregations' lives. Now we are going to take his words and bring it into our time and situation to apply it to our lives.

Slide 5 - vv. 12-13

Slide 6 - Continued Obedience

- Therefore —> B/c of Christ's example/life/sacrifice described in vv. 5-11
- Past obedience isn't enough/lasting. Must continue
 - Can see how this reflects the purpose of the letter. Not in response to a problem, but encouragement to continue and grow
- Not implying salvation by works/earning your own salvation
- "work out" - katergazomai (kä-ter-gä'-zo-mi) - to perform, accomplish, achieve; to do that from which something results: of things: bring about, result in; to fashion i.e. render one fit for a thing
 - NLT translates as "Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear"
- "work" - energeō (en-er-ge'-o) - to be operative, be at work, put forth power: to work for one, aid one; to effect; to display one's activity, show one's self operative
 - God is the one working
- Paul clearly preaches salvation by grace through faith
 - **Eph 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - **Titus 3:5** - He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

Slide 7,8 - vv. 14-18

- We are to “shine as lights in the world.” How?
 - Don’t grumble or dispute
 - Hold fast = apply, observe, attend to; stay

Slide 9 - Paul in Chains

- Paul in Chains
- Don’t waste Paul’s sacrifice/life → don’t waste Christ’s sacrifice/life
 - Drink offering - metaphor for blood Jesus spilled on the cross
 - Ex 29:40
 - Num 15:4-5, 6, 10
- Live out your faith
 - v. 8 b/c Christ humbled himself and was obedient to the point of death
 - v. 9 b/c God exalted Him above every other name

Slide 10 - Shine as Lights

- Hillside foundational verses in **Matthew 5:14-16**:
 - **14** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Nerding out in Greek language. Important to be able to support this with all other verses about “light.” Same word in English doesn’t necessarily imply same in Greek.

Slide 10 - “you shine AS lights IN the world”

“you are THE light OF the world”

- Philippians, phōstēr (fo-sta’r), the neutral form of the noun.
 - One other time in the NT (Rev) and refers more to our function illuminators or the vessels of the light.
 - “lights” - phōstēr - that which gives light, an illuminator: of the stars, sun and moon; light, brightness
 - We “illuminate” the world
- Matthew, phōs (fo’s), the masculine form of the noun
 - 70 times in the NT, including 13 times by Paul
 - more poetic or metaphorical, referring to the substance or nature of that “light” we are emitting
 - This is, it is used to “denote truth and its knowledge;” “especially the saving truth embodied in Christ and by his love and effort imparted to mankind”
 - Same light used to describe Jesus in **Luke 2:32** when he was taken to the temple after his birth for the purification and sacrificial ritual.
 - And that Jesus uses to describe Himself (**John 8:12**)
- God is the source of the light - as in v. 13
 - “work” - energeō (en-er-ge’-o) - to be operative, be at work, put forth power: to work for one, aid one; to effect; to display one’s activity, show one’s self operative
 - **2 Cor 4:6**
 - For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - **1 John 1:5**
 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all

Slide 11 - Light Exposes

- When we act as lights, we will expose what's in the darkness - the "crooked and twisted generation"
- **Eph 5:11**

Slide 12 - Ephesians 5:11

- To speak that truth - being bold, saying tough things, taking a stand
- talk the talk and walk the walk - why we must continue in obedience ("work out [our] salvation" and "[hold] fast to the word of life" (v. 12, 16))
- Don't go negative. Emphasize the positive and conviction/guilt will result
- Can't hold the world to the church's standards
 - **Titus 3:2b-3** - show perfect courtesy toward all people. 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Slide 13 - John 3:19-21

- And it may not be received well. **John 3:19-21**

Slide 15 - Ephesians 5:13

- **Eph 5:13**
 - But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light

Slide 16 - Step Into the Light

- In order to be the light/phōstēr/illuminator, you must have the light/phōs/saving truth

Slide 17 - Luke 11:36

- You more of you that is exposed to the light, the brighter you will shine (**Luke 11:36**).
 - If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

Slide 18 - Step Into the Light

- I'm not asking/telling you to expose your deepest hurts and hangups to the whole world
 - Find a few people who have been light shiners in your life. Start with one.
 - I have a circle of people - my pastor, my husband, my mom, a couple of my closest friends
 - Better together
- Maybe you have stepped into the light. Maybe you have been shining as a light yourself.
 - But today, I ask, are you shining as bright as you could be? Have you been letting the light only shine on your good side?
 - Is there something you need to bring into the light today in order to become a more effective illuminator for Christ?
- Maybe you've never stepped into the light at all. Maybe you have been hiding in darkness.
 - You may feel the pull to step into the light, but are afraid
 - **James 2:10**
 - For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.
 - **John 1:29**
 - The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
 - **Romans 5:20**

- Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
- **1 John 1:9**
 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness.
- Are you hiding in darkness? Do you need to step into the light?
- **Turn out the lights**

Slide 19 - Prayer Available

Slide 20 - Contact info

- If you are watching online and prayed this prayer today, we want to celebrate with you and help you in your next steps. Contact us.