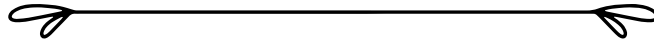


stars that shine in the sky



Who can be blameless and pure before God? If people try to attain it on their own strength or wisdom, the answer is "No One". As Paul shares in Philippians 2:13, however, it is God who works in us to will and to act in order to fulfill God's good purpose. When we believe Jesus as our savior, God accepts us as His children. On the cross, Jesus received the punishment God the Father meant for humans. Now that Jesus died and rose, we have access to God.

Paul is describing these children of God as stars that shine in the sky. He didn't say God's children would crush this warped and crooked generation. Rather, he said God's children would shine among crooked and warped people. Why? The reason is simple. God's children shine on the sky, so that people can see the truth, like Jesus did. It's the truth we're carrying.

Whenever I think about the truth, the good news of Jesus, I pray for the salvation of two kids. Both of them are friends with Hymn. They live right next to us. In my prayer, I've been asking God for opportunities to show them Godly characters and to share the gospel clearly. It has already been 2 years since I started praying for them. While there have not been good opportunities yet, I rely on Holy Spirit's guidance. Who knows, maybe one day these two boys will see the goodness of God through me.

I realize again and again this Lent season as I meditate on the word of God that I have nothing to boast about except Christ. The same way Paul said he had nothing good in him, I know I have nothing good in me. But, that is ok. Because when there is nothing good in me, God's grace can be felt as it is.

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose (Philippians 2:13)."

What a remarkable promise to me! My prayer is that I keep relying on this promise.