

Sermon Title: Lights in the World

Sermon Series: Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 2:14-18

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



What does your life illuminate?

Philippians 2:14-15 ESV

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,

1. Live a _____ Life

Colossians 1:21-22 ESV

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Psalms 19:12-13 ESV

12 Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Philippians 2:14-15 ESV

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,

Exodus 16:2-3 ESV

2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 3 and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Deuteronomy 32:5 ESV

They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.

Philippians 2:14-15 ESV

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,

2. Live a _____ life by _____ as Lights

Philippians 2:15-16 ESV

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.

Matthew 5:14 ESV

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Philippians 2:16 ESV

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.

Your obedience to God is not a private matter. It has implications for the world knowing God and for encouraging others in Christ.

3. _____ for their faith was worth it

Philippians 2:17 ESV

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.

Pleasure Pain Principle – written into the fabric of who we are

Bad pleasure – the _____ comes first

Good pleasure, the _____ comes first

Philippians 2:8 ESV

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 1:29 ESV

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

Philippians 1:17 ESV

17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

4. Light of Christ results in _____ together

Philippians 2:18 ESV

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

What does your life illuminate?

Shine your light so the world sees Christ

Questions:

If you run short on time, questions in bold are recommended

Getting to Know You:

What is one of the craziest things you (or someone you've seen) have complained about? (please share without gossiping)

Would you say you struggle with complaining? Do you find it easy to do? Why?

Why do you think complaining is so commonplace?

For you what have you seen trigger grumbling or complaining? What lies are you believing about God, yourself, your situation that drive your negative attitude in these situations?

Into the Bible:

Read Philippians 2:14-18

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.

5. Was there something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

6. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

7. In verse 2:14-15 Paul is reflecting on Deuteronomy 32:5. In what ways were the Israelites prevented from being “lights in the world” because of their grumbling and questioning? How might “obedient” (vs. 12) Christians similarly be prevented from being “lights in the world” by their bad attitudes?

8. How does holding tight to and holding out the Word of God enable us to live as lights?

9. Why would Paul question whether he had labored in vain over their faith? What should that cause us to evaluate?

10. Paul sacrificed his life for the believers faith. Why do you think he thought that sacrifice was worth it?

For Extra Study

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19

14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. 19 But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

11. Why do you think Paul wants us to understand, study, and correctly interpret God’s Word?

12. From this passage, what are the results of mishandling God’s word?

13. What comfort does this passage bring to your life?

14. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

15. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application:

16. What do you normally complain about? How can you help each other to stop complaining about this?

17. How can we “shine like stars” in the dark, crooked, and morally depraved universe (vs. 15) without coming across as “holier than thou” to those who aren’t disciples of Jesus?

18. What are some practical steps you can take to grow in your understanding of the Word of God?

19. Since we are to shine the light of our salvation to others, Who is someone you can pray to share Jesus with this week?

20. How can our group help each other with these questions?