

Philippians 2:15-18 "...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."

VERSE 15 — AMONG WHOM YOU SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD,

Proverbs 4:18 "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day."

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."

Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

- ▶ "God is light," says **1 John 1:5**. Light is a common metaphor in the Bible. **Proverbs 4:18** symbolizes righteousness as the "morning sun." **Philippians 2:15** likens God's children who are "blameless and pure" to shining stars in the sky. Jesus used light as a picture of good works: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds" (**Matthew 5:16**). **Psalms 76:4** says of God, "You are radiant with light."

The fact that God is light sets up a natural contrast with darkness. If light is a metaphor for righteousness and goodness, then darkness signifies evil and sin. **1 John 1:6** says that "if we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth." Verse 5 says, "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." Note that we are not told that God is a light but that He is light. Light is part of His essence, as is love (**1 John 4:8**). The message is that God is completely, unreservedly, absolutely holy, with no admixture of sin, no taint of iniquity, and no hint of injustice.



If we do not have the light, we do not know God. Those who know God, who walk with Him, are of the light and walk in the light. They are made partakers of God's divine nature, "having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" ([2 Peter 1:4](#)).

God is light, and so is His Son. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ([John 8:12](#)). To "walk" is to make progress. Therefore, we can infer from this verse that Christians are meant to grow in holiness and to mature in faith as they follow Jesus (see [2 Peter 3:18](#)).

God is light, and it is His plan that believers shine forth His light, becoming more like Christ every day. "You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness" ([1 Thessalonians 5:5](#)). God is the Creator of physical light as well as the Giver of spiritual light by which we can see the truth. Light exposes that which is hidden in darkness; it shows things as they really are. To walk in the light means to know God, understand the truth, and live in righteousness.

Believers in Christ must confess any darkness within themselves – their sins and transgressions – and allow God to shine His light through them.

Christians cannot sit idly by and watch others continue in the darkness of sin, knowing that those in darkness are destined for eternal separation from God. The Light of the World desires to banish the darkness and bestow His wisdom everywhere ([Isaiah 9:2](#); [Habakkuk 2:14](#); [John 1:9](#)). In taking the light of the gospel to the world, we must by necessity reveal things about people that they would rather leave hidden. Light is uncomfortable to those accustomed to the dark ([John 3:20](#)).

Jesus, the sinless Son of God, is the "true light" ([John 1:9](#)). As adopted sons of God, we are to reflect His light into a world darkened by sin. Our goal in witnessing to the unsaved is "to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God" ([Acts 26:18](#)).



VERSE 16A — HOLDING FAST TO THE WORD OF LIFE

1. This is not casual, it is intentional.
2. This is not indifferent, it is purposeful.
3. This is not uninterested, it is concerned.

John 15:4 “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”

VERSE 16B — SO THAT IN THE DAY OF CHRIST I MAY BE PROUD THAT I DID NOT RUN IN VAIN OR LABOR IN VAIN.

Revelation 3:14-22 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

¹⁵ “‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

2 Peter 1:3-11 “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For



if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 5:6-11 “Bumble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Romans 16:17-20 “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. ¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. ¹⁹ For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

VERSES 17-18 — 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. LIKEWISE YOU ALSO SHOULD BE GLAD AND REJOICE WITH ME.

- ▶ I think Paul appropriately summed it up well when he said this in **1 Corinthians 15:58**, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

