

Lights in the World; Philippians 2:12-18

- I. How bright does our light shine
 - A. Our attitude affects all around us
 - B. I have a Linked In contact who has written some articles
 1. The Trinity Heresy
 2. The Name of the Lord is not Jesus
 - C. He has a demeaning and condescending attitude to those who don't think like him
 - D. No matter if his research and conclusions are correct (and in my limited research, they are not), no one will listen to him because of his attitude
 - E. While he may have degrees and a scholarly pedigree, his light does not shine very bright
- II. Work out your salvation
 - A. Philippians 2:12–13 ; ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
 - B. God desires our active service in His Kingdom, so much so that the scriptures tie concepts to it like justification (we are justified by our works and not faith alone, James 2:24)
 1. The context of our scripture this morning is works
 2. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel, 1:27
 3. Do nothing from selfish ambition or deceit, 2:3
 4. Look to the interests of yourself and others, 2:4
 5. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, 2:8
 - C. “Work out your own salvation” is not a mental problem to be solved, but a call to service that is to be obeyed
 1. It is written in the imperative plural voice
 2. It has the force of a command (or polite request) for the whole Philippian church
 - D. Some scholars I read said that “salvation” is not spiritual but physical deliverance, or wholeness
 - E. Philippians 1:19; ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my **deliverance**,
 - F. Im not so sure I agree with that
 1. James says we are justified by our works and our faith (James 2:24)
 2. Jesus separates the sheep from the goats by their behavior, their manner of life, their works
 - a) Matthew 25:31–33; ³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.
 - (1) This is clearly a picture of his second coming
 - (2) 2 Thessalonians 1:6–8; ⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

- b) Matthew 25:34; ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
 - c) Matthew 25:41; ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
 - d) Matthew 25:35–36; ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’
- G. Our works (the reason why we do them) is what sets us apart, it is what shines the light (love) of God in a dark and evil world

III. Shine as Lights

- A. Philippians 2:14–15; 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,
- B. Grumbling and Disputing
 - 1. Korah’s Rebellion
 - a) Numbers 16:9–11; ⁹ is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the Lord and to stand before the congregation to minister to them, ¹⁰ and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also? ¹¹ Therefore it is against the Lord that you and all your company have gathered together. What is Aaron that you grumble against him?”
 - b) Numbers 16:31–33; ³¹ And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. ³² And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. ³³ So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.
 - c) Numbers 17:10–11; ¹⁰ And the Lord said to Moses, “Put back the staff of Aaron before the testimony, to be kept as a sign for the rebels, that you may make an end of their grumbings against me, lest they die.” ¹¹ Thus did Moses; as the Lord commanded him, so he did.
 - 2. Paul writing to the church in Corinth about the events of the Exodus
 - a) 1 Corinthians 10:8–11; ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.
 - 3. It is clear that in whatever covenant we look, we find that God is very displeased with grumbling
 - 4. 1 Peter 4:8–11; ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be

glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.
Amen.

C. Without blemish

1. What OT sacrifices were supposed to be
2. What Christ was for us
3. In the midst of a crooked and twisted generation we are supposed to be blameless, innocent, without blemish
4. We are supposed to shine as lights

D. We are drawn to light

1. In a dark room, we strain to see and even the smallest amount of light aids us
2. In the darkness we are drawn to the smallest amount of light, and I don't think that is "instinct"
3. Light is used to guide ships safely through dangerous waters (lighthouses)
4. Light is used to ensure we don't stumble while walking in the dark

E. The lighthouse

1. Britannica - structure, usually with a tower, built onshore or on the seabed to serve as an aid to maritime coastal navigation, warning mariners of hazards, establishing their position, and guiding them to their destinations. From the sea a lighthouse may be identified by the distinctive shape or colour of its structure, by the colour or flash pattern of its light,... to guide the navigator through busy and often tortuous coastal waters and harbour approaches.
2. An aid to navigation
 - a) Just as the lighthouse is to mariners, we are to humanity
 - b) The light we shine aids not only fellow Christians but others to navigate the often treacherous waters of life
3. Warning of hazards
 - a) The lighthouse points our reefs and dangerous waters
 - b) We point out sin and dangerous behaviors
4. Establish their position
 - a) The lighthouse establishes the mariners position and aids in a safe entrance to the harbor
 - b) We can show people their spiritual position and aid in a safe entrance to the Kingdom of God
5. Each lighthouse is different - a different color scheme or flash pattern
6. Each of us is different

F. We are the lighthouses of humanity, identifying safe refuge and helping people get there

G. Shine as lights!

IV. Labor in Vain

A. Philippians 2:16–18; 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.

B. Staying with the theme of working in the kingdom, I would like to focus on Paul's statement, "I did not run or labor in vain."

1. Here is where it is important that we see the link between service in the Kingdom and faith
2. We can do all the greatest works there are but still run and labor in vain
3. Without "holding fast to the word of life" our service means nothing

4. There are many philanthropists throughout the world who do many good things for lots of people
 - a) Merriam-Webster - one who makes an active effort to promote human welfare
 - b) [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) - a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.
5. While that does great things for physical needs, it does nothing for the spiritual need; it is safe navigation to nowhere
6. A lighthouse's sole purpose is to guide mariners through treacherous waters to safe harbors
7. Our sole purpose (shining as lights in the world) is to guide souls through treacherous waters (this crooked and twisted generation) and into safe harbors (the Kingdom of God)

V. Lighthouses

- A. Are you laboring in vain?
- B. Are you a lighthouse?
- C. Philippians 2:14–15; 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,