



LIGHT FOR THE WORLD

JEFF STEVENS | PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18

APRIL 22 & 25, 2021

NOTES:

Ecclesiastes 7:13, Philippians 1:29-30, 2:2-3, 9-11, 12-13

1. No **complaining**, no **arguing** (vs. 14)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

2. Shining **contrast** in a **twisted** world (vs. 15)

Ecclesiastes 7:13, Ephesians 5:1, Matthew 5:14,16

3. Look for **proud** moments (vs. 16)

Philippians 1:3-6

4. **Sacrifice** everything for faith (vs. 17)

2 Corinthians 12:15

5. **Contentment** in God's plan and **everything** is in God's plan (vs. 18)

Philippians 4:11, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 3 John 4, Philippians 3:8

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

REVIEW:

1. Last week we were encouraged to be consistently obedient by being continually dependent upon God for our mind ("will"), motor ("work"), and motivation ("His pleasure"). How did you do? Were you intentional in your dependence and obedience?

THIS WEEK'S SERMON:

1. Jeff started his sermon with a visual reminder that we operate in a dark world. How have you seen this darkness in your surrounding community, and secular society as a whole?
2. "Do ALL things without grumbling or disputing." What triggers your temptation to grumble or complain? What do our grumbling or disputing words say to God?
3. Look carefully at the different identities that are listed in verse 15. Are these good descriptions of your identity? Why or why not?
 - Blameless and innocent (1 Peter 1:14-16)
 - Children of God (Ephesians 5:1)
 - Without blemish (2 Peter 3:14)
 - Shine as lights (Matthew 5:14-16)

4. Paul uses the term “among whom” (vs. 15) to describe how we relate to the world. It is not separation, integration, or isolation – but distinction. Discuss the difference between these positions (especially in light of Jesus’ prayer in John 17:14-19).

5. Think about these different kinds of light. Which kind best describes the light you shine?
 - Flickering candle
 - Zippo Lighter
 - Spotlight
 - Lighthouse
 - Flashlight
 - Emergency light
 - Other: _____

6. Paul was concerned that he did not run, labor, or live his life in vain (vs. 16). What would this kind of vain pursuit look like in our world? (Refer to Ecclesiastes 2: 18-23)

7. A “drink offering” (vs. 17) was poured out on the altar – nothing withheld. Using this illustration, we can be “all in for Him” or we can “hold back for me.” If you honestly looked back on last week, where did you spend your time? What would need to change to be like the “drink offering” Paul describes?

8. There is a mutual and reciprocal joy that Paul mentions in verse 18. This shows us the value of community. How can we, as a small group, experience and celebrate this kind of joy together?

9. Jeff summarized his sermon with 5 take-aways. Focus on just one of these this next week. What will be different in your life as a result of being intentional with your chosen application? Can you think of one specific way that you can take action to your choice?
 - Be assured – no grumbling.
 - Be a light in a twisted world.
 - Be proud of what God is doing.
 - Be poured out for God.
 - Be content.