

“Shine As Lights”
Philippians 2:14-16

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Philippians 2:
 - As We Continue Learning About:
 - How We Can Resist Worldliness:
 - In Our Lives As Christians!
 - Which Is Still:
 - One Of The Most Deceptive Spiritual Enemies:
 - That We Face:
 - In This World!
2. And - So Far:
 - We've Explored:
 - Four Stages Of Our Resistance:
 - To The World!
 - So - To Review:
 - The First Stage:
 - Involves Remembering That:
 - As Christians - We Have Been:
 - Sent Into This World:
 - By The Lord Jesus!
 - Even As Jesus Prayed:
 - In John 17:18 - "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world!"
 - The Second Stage:
 - Involves Pursuing Biblical:
 - Separation From This World!
 - Which Is What The Apostle Paul Pursued:
 - Galatians 6:14 - "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world!"
 - The Third Stage:
 - Involves Living As:
 - Strangers In This World!
 - Strangers & Sojourners - Or:
 - Strangers & Pilgrims!
 - Which Is What The Patriarchs:
 - Confessed - According To:
 - Hebrews 11:13!
 - Which Is Why:
 - In 1 Peter 2:11 - The Apostle Peter:
 - Writes - "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul!"
 - The Fourth Stage:
 - Which We Looked At Last Week:
 - Involves Living As:
 - Spectacles To The World!
 - Openly Manifesting:
 - The Love & Labor Of Christ:
 - Any Way We Can!
 - Even In "Spectacular" Ways!
 - Which Is What We Find:
 - In 1 Corinthians 4:9:
 - "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men!"
 - 3. Well - Tonight:
 - We Can Find A Fifth Stage:

- In Resisting The World & Worldliness:
 - In Our Lives & In Our Church:
 - From Philippians 2:14-16!
 - Where Paul Writes:
 - “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: / That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; / Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain!”
 - The Fifth Stage:
 - To Resisting Worldliness Involves:
 - Shining As Lights Into The World:
 - Even As We Find In:
 - 2:15 - “Among Whom Ye Shine As Lights In The World!”
4. Earlier In Our Series:
- We Learned About Just:
 - How Dark This World Is!
 - So That - When Jesus Came:
 - It Was Like The Sun Coming Over The Eastern Horizon:
 - Bringing To An End:
 - The Endless Spiritual Night, Brought On By Sin & The Devil!
 - So That - When Jesus Was Born:
 - The Prophecy Of Isaiah 9:2 Was Fulfilled!
 - “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined!”
 - And This Was Because:
 - Jesus Came To Be:
 - The Light Of The World!
 - As He Said Himself In:
 - John 9:5 - “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world!”
5. But When Jesus Returned To Heaven:
- He Left His People In This World:
 - To Keep Reflecting His Light:
 - Into The Darkness!
 - Which Is Why:
 - He Said Those Familiar Words:
 - Found In His Sermon On The Mount:
 - In Matthew 5:14-16 - “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. / Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. / Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven!”
6. So - Since We Are:
- The Light Of The World:
 - Even As Jesus Was:
 - The Light Of The World!
 - This Is What Paul Has In Mind:
 - When He Reminds Us That:
 - 2:15 - “Ye Shine As Lights In The World!”
 - So - By Virtue Of Just:
 - Believing In & Following Christ:
 - We Are Shining & Reflecting:
 - His Light:
 - Into The Darkness Of This World!
7. And - Why Does This World:
- Need Our Light?
 - Because It Remains:
 - As Paul Describes It:
 - Also In 2:15:
 - “A Crooked & Perverse Nation / Generation!”

- This Is A Further Description:
 - Of The Darkness:
 - Of This World!
 - And Why - Faithful Christians:
 - Will Stand Out As Lights:
 - Within It!
- And So - This Is:

1. ***The Reality Of This World!***

- And Why It Needs Our Light!
 - Its Because This World Remains:
 - “Crooked & Perverse!”
- The Word “Crooked” Is Used:
 - To Describe:
 - The Basic Depravity:
 - Of This World!
 - It Is “Crooked” - Because:
 - It Is Out Of Shape!
 - **IE:** Which Can Happen To Us - When We Are Out Of Shape! Physically!
 - But - The World Is “Crooked” Because:
 - It Is Out Of The Shape:
 - That God Originally Created It To Be In!
 - **IE:** Like A Board That You Might Buy From Home Depot Or Lowes! When You Originally Bought It & Brought It Home, It Was Straight & Useful!
 - But - If You Leave It Outside & Exposed To The Elements - What Will Happen To It?
 - It Will Warp & Become Crooked & Useless!
 - This Is Why This World:
 - Needs You & Me:
 - To “Shine As Lights” In It!
 - Because It Is Still Very “Crooked!”
- The Word “Perverse” Is Then Used:
 - To Describe:
 - The Basic Direction:
 - Of This World!
 - It Is “Perverse” - Because:
 - It Has Turned Aside & Turned Away From:
 - God & His Purposes:
 - For It!
 - Even Going The Opposite Direction!
 - And - This Is Something That:
 - Everyone Of Us Has Done:
 - According To Isaiah 53:6 - “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way!”
 - And - This Too Is Why This World:
 - Needs You & Me:
 - To “Shine As Lights” In It!
 - Because It Is Still Very “Perverse!”
- And So - Even When:
 - The Pressure Of This World:
 - Tries To Keep Us From:
 - Going Straight - And From:
 - Going Forward!
 - We Must Resist The Pressure:
 - To Conform To The World’s Path:
 - And, Instead, “Shine As Lights In The World!”
 - But - How Are We To Do This?
 - Well - We Can Also See:

- From Philippians 2:15:

2. ***The Reflection To This World:***

- That We Are To Shine!
 - The Reflection Of God's Own Light:
 - So That - "Ye May Be Blameless And Harmless, The Sons Of God, Without Rebuke!"
 - This Is The Kind Of Light:
 - That We Are To Shine & Reflect:
 - In This World!
- A Light That Is Clear!
 - Or - "Blameless" - As It Says Here!
 - To Be Blameless Means:
 - To Not Be At Fault:
 - Based On The Verdict Of Others!
 - This Means That:
 - The World Is Always Watching:
 - Those Who Claim The Name Of Christ!
 - And - The People In This World:
 - Will Judge Us:
 - Especially To See If We Really Are Different:
 - Than They Are! Or Not!
 - And So - We Must "Shine As Lights" In:
 - As Clear A Way As Possible:
 - So That They Might Not Find Fault In Us!
 - Unless It Is A Fault:
 - That Pertains To God!
- Just Like In Daniel 6:5:
 - Where Daniel's Adversaries Realized That:
 - "We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God!"
 - And Why Was That?
 - Because - 6:4 - "They could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him!"
- We Must Let Our Light So Shine Before Men:
 - In As Clear A Way As Possible!
 - "Blameless!"
 - But - We Also Need To Reflect:
- A Light That Is Consistent!
 - Or - "Harmless" - As It Says In Philippians 2:15!
 - To Be Harmless Means:
 - To Not Be A Fake Or A Fraud!
 - It Has The Sense Of Being:
 - Simple & Sincere!
 - Without Complexity Or Confusion!
 - In 1 Corinthians 14:8:
 - Paul Talks About A Trumpet That:
 - Gives An "Uncertain Sound!"
 - That Is - A Sound That:
 - Is Different Than The Trumpet Blast That Might Have Been Used To:
 - Prepare An Army For Battle!
 - But - If The Sound Is:
 - "Uncertain" & Unknown:
 - Then It Could Lead To Confusion & Even Catastrophe!
 - As Christians:
 - Our Light & Witness:
 - Needs To Be Clear & Consistent:
 - So That It Will Not Lead To Confusion In The World!
 - But - How Often Does *This* Happen:

- When Our Conversation In Life:
 - Is Different Than:
 - Our Confession Of Faith?
- Instead - We Need To Let Our Light So Shine:
 - Before Men - As Consistently As Possible!
 - “Harmless!”
 - But - We Also Need To Reflect:
- A Light That Is Christ-Like!
 - Which Is Why Paul Adds In:
 - 2:15 - “The Sons Of God!”
 - Or - The “Children Of God!”
 - This Means That:
 - We Are To Live In This World:
 - In Such A Way:
 - That The World Might Take Notice That:
 - We Are Part Of The Family Of God!
 - Because - They Will See In Us:
 - The Same Characteristics As:
 - **The** Son Of God!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Who Was Perfectly:
 - Blameless & Harmless!
 - Even As We Are Told:
 - Oin Hebrews 7:26 - “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens!”
 - And - Since We Are Part Of:
 - The Same Family:
 - We Will Shine The Same Light:
 - That Christ Shined:
 - In This world!
 - Let Us Strive To Be:
 - More & More:
 - Like Christ:
 - Before The World!
 - Instead Of Being More & More:
 - Like The World:
 - Before Christ!
 - But Then - We Also Need to Reflect:
 - A Light That Is Correct:
 - And - “Without Rebuke!”
 - This Is Similar To What It Means:
 - To Be “Blameless!”
 - But - It Goes Even Deeper!
 - “Blameless” May Describe:
 - How Others See You!
 - But - “Without Rebuke” Describes:
 - How You Really Are!
 - Your True Character & Integrity!
 - When You Are “Blameless” - It Means That:
 - You Are Without Fault:
 - Before Others!
 - But - When You Are “Without Rebuke” - It Means:
 - That You Are Without Fault:
 - Before God!
 - And - As Christians:
 - We Need To Strive For Both!
 - So - What Is Seen On The Outside:
 - Is True On The Inside!

- Which Is Why The Apostle Paul:
 - Sought To Live & “To Have Always A Conscience Void Of Offence Toward God, And Toward Men!” (Acts 24:16)
- And So - This Is How:
 - We Are To “Shine As Lights” In This World!
 - In A Clear Way!
 - Blameless!
 - In A Consistent Way!
 - Harmless!
 - In A Christ-Like Way!
 - As The Children Of God! And:
 - In A Correct Way!
 - Without Rebuke!

Conclusion:

1. But - What Is One Way:
 - That We Can Do This:
 - In The World In Which We Live?
 - This Is Where The Rubber Meets The Road!
 - An Appropriate Figure Of Speech:
 - For This Time Of Year!
2. Well - In 2:14 - Paul Gets Very Specific!
 - In Spite Of The Reality:
 - Of This World!
 - As A “Crooked & Perverse Generation!”
 - We Can Reflect & Shine:
 - God’s Light In This World:
 - In A Clear, Consistent, Christ-Like, And Correct Way!
 - By - 2:14 - Doing:
 - “All Things Without Murmurings And Disputings!”
 - Wow! Now That’s Sure Convicting:
 - Isn’t It?
3. Paul Uses This As An Example:
 - Of “Shining As Lights In The World” Because:
 - Of Just How Prominent:
 - These Attitudes Are:
 - In This World!
 - “Murmuring” Means:
 - To Gripe & Mutter:
 - Under Your Breath:
 - As An Expression:
 - Of Dissatisfaction & Discontent!
 - “Disputing” Means:
 - To Express That Dissatisfaction:
 - In A Negative, Outward Way!
 - Especially By Arguing!
 - Either Way:
 - When You Murmur Against Things:
 - Inwardly - Or Dispute About Things:
 - Outwardly!
 - It Reflects The Spirit & The Darkness Of This World:
 - And Not:
 - The Spirit & The Light Of Christ!
 - 4. So - When Things Don’t Go Your Way:
 - What Is One Of The Best Ways:
 - To “Shine As Lights In The World?”
 - 2:14 - “Do All Things *Without* Murmurings And Disputings!”
 - Instead:

- As We Are Told In:
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31:
 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!”
 - And - As We Are Told In:
 - Colossians 3:17:
 - “Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him!”
 - And - As We Are Told In:
 - Colossians 3:23:
 - “Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men!”
5. This Is An Altogether Different:
- Spirit & Attitude:
 - Than This World Has!
 - But - When You Resist This Kind Of Worldly Attitude:
 - You Will “Shine As Lights In The World!”
 - The Way Jesus Fully Intended You To!
 - And The World Will Take Notice!
6. So - Remember Philippians 2:14-15:
- When You Are Faced With:
 - This Most Common Worldly Spirit!
 - “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: / That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world!”

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***