

Philippians: Living A Life of Joy Series #5

How to Be Lights in the World?

Philippians 2:12-18

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Treasuring Christ... Loving People...

Christ followers magnify Christ by...

-Humbly Receiving Grace *2:1*

Empty vessel to 'hold' God

-Humbly Relating to Others *2:2-4*

Available channel to 'give' God

-Humbly Living as Jesus Did *2:5-11*

Obedient image-bearer to 'reflect' God

Three Issues...

- Complacency is so common!**
- Complaining is so natural!**
- Coasting is so easy!**

2:12 Therefore... my beloved...

3 Exhortations...

Be Lights in the World

1. Since complacency is so common...

Work OUT as God Works IN 2:12-13

Paul answers three questions...

WHAT? *Work out your own salvation*

It doesn't mean...

It does mean...

Salvation has three aspects to it...

Phil. 1:6

Past

Rom. 5:1

Justification

Position

‘Declared’ righteous

Fully accepted in Christ

Present

Rom. 8:4,13

Sanctification

Practice

‘Making’ righteous

Becoming like Christ

Future

Rom. 5:9

Glorification

Presence

‘Confirmed’ righteous

Glorified with Christ

HOW? *With fear & trembling*

It doesn't mean...

It does mean...

WHY? *For...God works in you...*

God energizes Christ followers.

1. Source:
2. Partnership:

God empowers Christ followers to...

1. Being:
2. Doing:

Be Lights in the World

*What area of your life does
Paul say God wants
you to 'work out'?*

2. Since complaining is so natural...

Zip IT (except for giving thanks) *2:14-15*

Paul answers two questions...

WHAT? *Do all things with no grumbling or questioning*

Grumbling: complain, criticize, nitpick

Questioning: argue, dispute, condemn

Exodus 14:11; 15:24; 16:2,8; 17:3; 32:1

Numbers 11:1,3; 12:1; 13:27; 16:3,41

Ex. 14:11 *‘They said to Moses, ‘Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?’*

Ex. 15:23-24 *‘When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter...And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, ‘What shall we drink?’*

Ex. 16:2-3 *‘The whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness... ‘Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt...kill us with hunger.’*

Ex. 17:2-3 *‘Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ And Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord? But the people thirsted there for water and the people grumbled against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of...’’*

Ex. 32:1 *‘When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves to Aaron and said to him, ‘Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’*

Num. 11:1 *‘And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp.’*

Num. 11:4-6 *‘Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, ‘Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.’*

Num. 12:1-2 *‘Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. And they said, ‘Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also? And the Lord heard it.*

Num. 14:2-4 *‘And the people of Israel grumbled against Moses & Aaron. They said to them, ‘Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?’*

Num. 14:26-36 *And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 'How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumblings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. Say to them, 'As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb... and Joshua... But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in...'*

Be Lights in the World

WHY? *Be blameless... Shine as lights...*

Grumbling discredits God's goodness/grace.

Live in the world...

Shine in the world...

3. Since coasting is so easy...

Lean Forward

2:16-18

Paul answers two questions...

Be Lights in the World

WHAT? *Holding fast/forth Word of Life*

It is not about me...it's about Jesus

Be Lights in the World

WHY? *I did not run... or labor in vain*

Don't waste your life, don't waste mine

Our Vision & Mission...

Treasuring Christ... Loving People...
for God's pleasure & our joy

By Inviting & Equipping people to
become devoted disciple-makers of Christ.

What does this look like?

- Complacency *Work out as God works in!*
- Complaining *Zip IT!*
- Coasting *Lean Forward (into Jesus)!*

Living A Life of Joy

Philippians

- 1:1-11** *How to Experience Joy in All Things?*
- 1:12-26** *How to Deeply Experience Jesus Christ?*
- 1:27-30** *How to Keep from Wasting Your Life?*
- 2:1-11** *How to Be Like Jesus Christ?*
- 2:12-18** *How to Be Lights in the World?*
- 2:19-30** *How to Live a Godly Life?*
- 3:1-11** *How to Maintain Your Joy?*
- 3:12-21** *How to Succeed in Life?*
- 4:1-7** *How to Manage Stress?*
- 4:8-13** *How to Maximize Your Joy?*
- 4:14-23** *How to Multiply Your Joy?*