

## **Shining Brightly in a Dark World** Philippians 2:12-18

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
15 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;
16 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.
17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.
18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Having seen the ultimate example of humility and service the Philippians are now encouraged by Paul to practice the Gospel centered life. This practice takes effort and work, but is only accomplished by the true source of power: God Himself! When we simply obey Him and allow His work to flow through us we find ourselves shining brightly in this dark world. We have cause to rejoice with Paul as our sacrifices of labor bring about faith in others. Our labor is not in vain because is has eternal purpose!

## <u> Part 1 – Working Out the Gospel</u>

Read Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 13:20-21

- 1) What is the connection between the work of the believer and the work of God?
- 2) According to Hebrews 13 how can we be sure that our work pleases God?
- 3) How does the salvation providing gospel of grace affect your everyday work?

## Part 2—Shining Not Grumbling

Read Philippians 2:14-16; John 1:1-5, 9

- 1) How does the Christian's grumbling affect his testimony as a child of God?
- 2) If John 1 says Jesus is the Light of the world, how are we also "lights" in the world?
- 3) How do you think "holding" the Word of Life can help you to shine in this dark world?

## Part 3-Worth the Work

Read Philippians 2:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

- 1) What might the timing of Paul's anticipated rejoicing indicate of our gospel labor?
- 2) According to 1 Thessalonians 2 in what did Paul hope and how does this compare to your own hopes?
- 3) How can you prevent your daily labor's from being in vain?

Part 4—Shared Joy

Read Philippians 2:16-18; Luke 15:1-10

- 1) What was the shared joy and rejoicing between Paul and the Philippians?
- 2) According to Jesus' parables in Luke 15 what causes great shared rejoicing in heaven, and how does this directly contradict the grumbling of the Pharisees?
- 3) Why should Christians be joyful people and how can you display this shared joy more intentionally?

