

Living as Lights in a Depraved World

Philippians 2:12-18

Obedience requires real work. 12-13

- Based on Jesus' humble obedience to God's will (vs.8) so too we are to obey (*obey = work out*), cf., Eph. 2:8-10, Rom. 4:4,5. *F & T*--II Cor. 7:15.
- This verse destroys two false notions about obedience:
 - 1.
 - 2.

Being a light in the world requires real character. 14-15

- Commands: don't *complain*, only in I Cor. 10:10, from Ex. 16:7-12, 17:3.
don't *argue*, I Tim. 2:8 (contrast w/one-mindedness in 2:2)
- Character result: *blameless*, 3:6, recall 1:10
innocent children of God
above reproach, Eph.1:4, Rev. 14:5 } synonyms for
nothing that might
offend / appear evil
- Contrast: See Dt.32:5
a crooked and perverse generation (Eph. 2:1-3, Acts 2:40)
shining lights (Matt. 5:16, Eph. 5:8, Dan. 12:3)

Questions: What does light do? (Jn. 3:19-21, Eph. 5:11)

Am I being a shining light?

Future joy in the Day of Christ requires real sacrifice. 16-18

- Day of Christ* (3x in book--1:6,10, 2:16) each time concerns believers' performance at their final accounting (II Cor. 5:10). Others' loyalty gives us a future reason to boast / glory, 4:1, II Cor. 1:14, I Thess. 2:19, 20.
- OT sacrifice imagery (Num. 28:7)—Paul pours himself out (II Tim. 4:6) by ministering to others. It's a sacrifice yet it's a joyful job to impact others, thus he invites them to rejoice with him (Paul's joy from others--1:4,18,2:2).