

Philippians 2:14-18 Glow in the Dark

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you 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 who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. 17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

I want you to notice the affect that a single light can have on a dark room!

A) Notice the affect that multiple lights can have on a dark room.

B) V.15 – We shine as lights in the World – that is our calling – our mandate.

C) Jesus said – John 8:12 “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Interesting that Jesus also said in Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

D) Our light is a reflection of his light – like the moon

1) The moon doesn't have any light in and of itself – the light of the moon is merely a reflection of the Sun

E) So too – we as believers do not have any light in and of ourselves but our light is a reflection of Jesus

1) Closer we get to Jesus the more we shine!

We have noted in our study here in the book of Philippians – that in CH. 1v27 – Talking our walks

A) Conduct or manner of life would be worthy of the gospel – idea weigh as much.

B) Our lives would be a good representation of that what the gospel stands for – the hope – the love – the grace – found in Jesus

C) Ch. 2v1-4 – More others focused than self focused

1) Ultimate example in Jesus V.5-11

D) Noted last week – Make the most of your salvation – Work out your own salvation – Muscle – or a Mine

1) Work it – get the most out of it

E) Do that knowing that God is working in You – Energizing you to that end.

Today we are picking up our study in V.14 where Paul is wanting his readers to understand –

A) They are meant to shine as lights in a dark world.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

A) The question – I want to answer today is **how do we shine as lights in a dark world?**

1) Title How to glow in the dark? – Note 4 things

B) #1 We need to see the World correctly

C) What kind of world are we living in? – Crooked and perverse generation – Paul's day and age.

1) Ours is even worse!

The word crooked, it's a word that some of you will be familiar with. It's the word scoliosis.

A) We get the word scoliosis from that a medical condition of the bending of the spine.

B) So that person can't support the weight that you were designed to support.

1) So by using the word, Paul is saying is the world we live in is morally bent, spiritually deformed, unable to support the weight of life

2)It is a very strong word, we live in a crooked world.

C)Then, notice the second word, perverse.

1)That's sort of the same thing but a little bit different. It means to twist and to turn.

D)We live in a twisted, morally contorted world, perverse.

E)Now If that language surprises you, it shouldn't. Because the Lord Jesus even said, "Oh faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?"

So as Christian people, we need to view our world correctly!

A)Morally crooked – and perverse – not hard to fathom – just turn on the news

B)Horrorifying – Bad in Paul's day – much worse in ours

C) Consider this, in the past century, the last 100 years, 123 million people been killed in wars in just the last century.

D)That's more than any and all of the centuries that preceded the last century.

According to the FBI, there is a murder every 35 minutes in our country,

A)a rape every six minutes, and a burglary every 14 seconds.

B)Abroad: Cancun Mexico – Since January over 100 murders – travel advisory – resort Area

C)Threat terrorism – Isis – Sex trafficking – Porn multi billion dollar business

D)All signs of the Crooked and perverse world we live in

But if we are going to see our world correctly we need to NOT just see what is wrong with it

A)We need to see it the way that Jesus does

B)Looked at the multitude – crooked and perverse – but with compassion – sheep without a shepherd

C)We need to remember this is a world that God loves – it is full of people that God loves !

1)God's heart breaks for the lost in this world

God's ears hears the cry of injustice that rings out in our world

A)See the difference – between what is Temporal vs Eternal

B)We sometimes get so enamored with the temporal – the stuff
ALL GOING TO BURN!

C)Imaginary Red tags – TEMPORAL

1)GREEN TAGS ON PEOPLE – People are eternal

D)Eternity in one of two places – With God – or separated – torment

So the starting place – Shine as lights and glow in the dark – we need to see the world correctly!

A)Hurting – Crooked and perverse – but full of People that Jesus desperately loves

#2 Do all things without complaining or disputing

A)How do you shine? – By being different

B)Known what we are for – or Known for what we are against

C)We have to choose to not be complainers – being a complainer comes naturally to us.

D)Guy who complained and saw the negative in everything

1)He test – Dog walked on water – problem with your dog can't swim

First married moved into a neighborhood – "The wives gather at my house to complain about our husbands – you are welcome to come"

A)Denise said –I will pass – I actually love my husband

B)Now it wasn't that Denise didn't have any reasons to complain – I gave her plenty

C)She chose NOT to do that! –

Wife: If your Husband is always grumbling and complaining -

A)pointing out the stuff you forgot to do and not noticing what you did do –

B) Do you find yourself falling in love with him more and more – **Or do you dread him coming home?**

Or you husbands – if when you get home your wife is always complaining to you

A) and stuff that needs done around the house – pointing out faults –

B) Are you excited about coming home? – No

C) Seen guys – work late – **“people like me here and appreciate me here.”**

1) **STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER!**

Listen: If all the world sees US the church doing is complaining about everything

A) ALWAYS – talking about what we don't like and how horrible it all is to us –

B) Are they really going to think we love them
Are they really going to be interested in our message.

C) #ForVista – We like our city – we like our community – problems? Of course –

1) But we like it here!

Some Christians Argue- But the world is sick and needs a doctor- ALSO TRUE

A) Let me ask you a question: If every time you went to the doctor, the doctor – insulted you –

B) Tore into you – told you what a horrible human being you are

1) Complained about everything you were doing wrong –

C) You are not going to be very open to his message – “This guy has problems”

But if you have a doctor who really cares about you and you know it - Treats you with respect

A) – you are going to be much more inclined to believe and receive his message

B) Jesus is never seen coming down heavy or **rebuking the lost** – Compassion

1) He rebuked the disciples – because they should have known better

C) And he rebuked the religious leaders – because they were hypocrites –

1) Burdens on God's people

D) He didn't rebuke the crowds – they were drawn to him because of it

1) Romans 2:4 – **It is his Kindness that leads to repentance**

Youth Pastor quit telling them how bad they are – start telling them how much I love them.

Leads us to our 3rd point – how do we Glow in the dark?

#1 See the world correctly – See what is wrong – but also see through Jesus eyes and heart

#2 Do all things without complaining or disputing

#3 Hold forth the world of life

Verse 16. "Holding fast to the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."

A) Now, when you think of holding something fast, what do you think of? Gripping it, holding it firmly.

B) So Paul could mean, you need to have a good grip on the truth of the gospel.

1) Because that's what he means when he says holding fast the word of life.

C) The Word of life is a synonym for the gospel message.

1) So it could simply mean, get a firm grasp on the message that brings eternal life.

D) However, a more proper translation would be, not holding fast, but holding forth the word of life. –

1) **I LIKE THAT!**

Holding fast can be seen as a little defensive –

A) We need to protect the gospel – Hold on to it – we don't lose it

B) We need to Hold fast- so that it holds us –VERY TRUE

C) But the idea here is to Hold it forth - Represent the Gospel the good news to the world! –

1) Fits v1:27 – **Conduct Manner of gospel**

Hold it forth! – There is hope! - Examples

A)Our world has told an entire generation of young people that they have **come from nothing**, that **they are nothing**, and that they **are going nowhere...**

B)So why are we surprised when they are living that way!

1)Hooking up – being reckless – living for the moment – no direction

C)That is the way people act who buy into the message – **that they come from nothing, are nothing, and are going no where.**

But the Gospel says: NO- You were created on Purpose and for a purpose!

A)Know GOD live for him – find your purpose in that relationship

B)God has blessed you and given you gifts – abilities – talents – passion – **IMPACT YOUR WORLD**

C)OR when we hear the Mantra – Black lives matter – how do we hold forth the Word of life – world of racism?

1)Yes – black lives matter – All lives matter to God!

Created in the image of God – RELATIONSHIP

A)The problem is not a RACE PROBLEM – it is an **IMAGE PROBLEM!** – **IDENTITY PROBLEM**

B)All people who have been made by a loving creator – who wants us to find our Identity in our relationship with HIM!

C)**All lives Matter to Him** – Red, Yellow – Black and white

1)Old - Young – Every Generation –

D)And definitely the Unborn – Fearfully and wonderfully made!

E)Any message that is contrary to that is only robbing man of his purpose -

So We glow in the dark when we are holding the word of Life!

A)Responding to the messages and problems of Culture by holding forth JESUS – **HIS PLAN – HIS OUTLOOK**

B)We can have hope in the midst of a crooked and perverse Generation –

1)When Jesus is on the throne – **HE MAKES THINGS RIGHT**

C)This past Wednesday: Heart is being stirred in the book of Acts

D)What made the early church so powerful

1)Short time – **THEY TURNED THEIR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN!**

E)They were holding forth JESUS!

A. W. Tozer: “Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other?

They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow.”

F)Tuned to Jesus in your Marriage: Same page – powerful

When our lives the way we live – we are holding forth the word of life it is powerful. –

A)When we aren't it is disgraceful!

B)There was a man driving his car. A woman was driving behind him in another vehicle. They were at a stoplight.

1)When the light turned green, the man in the lead car did not look up. **Texting or something – She honked – still didn't move – radio loud**

C)She honked again – finally he looked up and went – **light turned red – she was stuck-**

1)She wait through another light

D)How did she respond ? You respond? – Irrate – open window - Yelling – cussing – the finger -

The light turned green – she raced through – still mad-

A)Well there was a police officer saw the whole thing.

B) Pulls her over – approaches the car – asked for license and registration – she is puzzled what did I do wrong

C) License and registration Mame - - He looks at it runs it

1) Comes back – So this is your car? – Yes of course

What is the problem – officer

I was watching you ranting, and raving, and going through those contortions, making those gestures

A) Then I noticed the back of your car – What Would Jesus Do Bumper sticker,

B) and the little Chrome fish that's on your trunk, and the Follow Me to Sunday School license plate holder.

C) Naturally, I assumed that you had stolen the car.

D) Lesson: Don't have stickers on your car?

1) Have a life that holds forth the Gospel

Paul gives us a great example- of how to have that mentality – Daily! – Example of HIS LIFE

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

A) I love that Paul gets personal here: Guys I don't want this all to be in vain – Ok

1) Jail probably going to die – Go for it – not in vain

B) I Can relate to that- Dedicated my life to teaching feeding – shepherding this church.

1) Love it – meet someone who says – I work with so and so who guys to CV – they are AWESOME

C) So happy – Our labor is not in Vain

1) But sometimes – I meet someone – work with so and so – or live by go to CV – they are the WORST

D) So bummed – Labor is in Vain!

E) SO I like that Paul gets real here!!!

But then he proceeds to give this interesting analogy

17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all I am being poured out as a drink offering

A drink offering was symbolic in that culture of being all in –

A) Poured out – I am all in – completely poured out –

B) But the drink offering in Israel was also associated with the worship

1) It was one of the offerings the offerings that was a part of Israel's worship

C) The two ideas combined form a wonderful picture for the believer in Jesus of what are lives are to be about!

D) Daily poured into by the Lord- Daily poured out for the Lord we exist to bring God glory!

1) We bring him glory in the way that we live our lives

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Your true and proper worship!

#4 Living your life as a living sacrifice to Jesus

A) Everyday our lives have an opportunity to be a worship song to Jesus

Aa) If we realize- Jesus I exist for you!

B) Life on the Altar – Do what I do – bring your glory

1) The most mundane – as well as the most special

C) You are going to glow in the dark and stand in such contrast to the world around you.

Imagine: We prayed – Jesus pour me out today for you?

A) Amazing end of a day – Poured out by the Lord

B) Spent for Jesus-

C) Preach 10 times in 8 days – spent –

1) Poured out – work – Doing it for Jesus

Why are you so passionate about your Job?

➤ Working for Jesus

Why are you so nice to people –

➤ Jesus is nice to me

Why are you so concerned about the needy –

➤ Jesus is

I want to close with a crazy question. But I want an honest answer. How many

A) How many of you have ever drank – Coke products - Coca-Cola

B)I know a lot of you are not Soda drinkers – but if you were somewhere – water is bad – not an option

C)Only Choice for beverage was Coke or Pepsi

1)How many of you would pick Coke – how many Pepsi

Want to know why Coke wins? Because a few years back, years ago, they had a stated goal of Coca-Cola Corporation.

They said, "**Our goal is we want every person on Earth to at least taste Coca-Cola.**" Every person, that's our goal. That's a pretty lofty goal to say, I want everybody in the world to taste Coca-Cola.

This is how they've done. As of today, 97% of the world has heard of Coke. 72% of the world has seen a Coke product. 51% of the world has tasted Coca-Cola, over half.

You say, well, that's only over half. That's not 100%. A)Yeah, but you know how long Coca-Cola has been around? Only 100 years.

B)In 100 years they've been around, over half the world's population has tasted Coke.

How long has the church of Jesus been around – over 2000 yrs!

A)The gospel message has been going forth for over 2,000 yrs –

B)Still a lot of the world hasn't heard it

C)I know things go better with Coke. But things go way better with Jesus.

SHINE FORTH!

#1 See the world correctly – See what is wrong – but also see through Jesus eyes and heart

#2 Do all things without complaining or disputing

#3 Hold forth the world of life

#4 Live as a living sacrifice – poured out by Jesus