

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 26

Chapter 2, verses 12-18: Having a Good Testimony Outside the Church

17 October 2022

Obey...in my absence...do of his good pleasure...shine as lights in the world.

- Don't be a hypocrite (Christian in church only) or you will be the greatest enemy of the gospel.
 - Be holy whether there is a pastor watching you or not. Let lost people see that Jesus Christ has made a difference in your life.
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Vs 12 Paul tells the Christians at Philippi to continue to obey in his absence.

- Many Christians only obey because there's a chance they might get caught if they sin.
 - Language, entertainment, activities with the boyfriend/girlfriend.
 - You may deceive the pastor or the brethren, but you're forgetting that God is the One who sees all, and He is the One you will have to answer to.
 - Don't be a fraud (a different "you" when you're not in church). Be the same holy person no matter who you are with.
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Vs 13 God put IN YOU the will to do of his good pleasure. Now He wants you to work it OUT (vs 12). OUTWARDLY be what God has made you on the INSIDE.

- Make it outwardly evident and visibly manifest that you are saved.
 - When you SAY that you're a Christian, but you LIVE like an unsaved person, you are killing the testimony of every Christian in your town.
 - They'll ignore the Christians who are living right and talk about the ONE who is doing wrong.
 - If you CLAIM to have salvation, make sure there is evidence to back up your claim. Live it.
 - The world expects God's people to be godly.
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EXAMPLES OF HOW WE ARE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT OURSELVES IN THE WORLD:

- **Ephesians 6:5-7**
 - **"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers"** (vs 6). Not putting on a show of being a hard worker only when the boss is watching or when you want to impress some people who are watching. Always do what you're supposed to do no matter who's watching.
 - As soon as you identify yourself as a Christian, people will be watching you to see if you're different from everybody else.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**
 - **"Walk HONESTLY toward them that are without"** (vs 12). When you try to act like lost people act, you are being dishonest because you are NOT lost. Don't try to "fit in."
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Vs 14 "Do all things without murmurings and disputings."

- Reluctance will only make the task at hand more difficult. Parents need to teach their children this principle early in life. It will prepare them for life.

- Whether you are you faking obedience when in church or faking disobedience when not in the presence of the pastor or the brethren (vs 12), you are a fraud and a liar. Stop pretending.
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Vs 15 We are to be “**blameless and harmless...without rebuke...in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.**”

- Live so that lost people have no proof of any wrongdoing on your part and no grounds to criticize your testimony.
 - Show them that Jesus Christ has truly changed your life.
 - **Romans 12:1-2** We are told to live a holy life so that we may PROVE what God’s will is.
 - We must prove to the lost and dying world that it is best to submit to God.
 - They may not listen to your words, but you may get their attention with your holy life. Let them see that it IS better to live for God.
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Vs 16 “...that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”

- If saved people don’t live right when they are outside the church house, everything the preacher taught inside the church house comes to nothing.
 - If the world rejects the gospel, make sure it’s not because of the life you lived in their view.
 - People rejected Jesus Christ, but not because of the life that He lived. He was pronounced to be “without fault” by the secular authority of His time (Luke 23:4, 14-15, John 18:38, John 19:4, 6).
 - Joshua 22:1-3 Joshua commended the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh for obeying his voice and keeping God’s commandments.
 - We ought to “always obey” (Php 2:12) and live for God. It will benefit our families, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the lost world.
 - Don’t *act* like a Christian when it’s convenient. LIVE like a Christian at ALL times for the benefit of others.
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