

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 27

Chapter 2, verses 14-20: Shining as Lights in the World

24 October 2022

Vs 14 “¹⁴ **Do all things without murmurings—and disputings...**”

Murmurings: mumbling under your breath because you think God isn't managing things the way you think He should.

Disputings: quarrelling with men, usually because of your own selfish expectations.

Vs 15 “**That ye may be blameless...**” If something goes wrong, it won't be my fault.

“**...and harmless**” My actions or words won't hurt anyone.

“**...the sons of God.**” I truly am a son of God if I'm saved, but does my conduct show it? Work it out.

“**...without rebuke.**” God should not have to rebuke me for the way I'm living my life. If I'm living right, it will not be necessary to reprimand or correct me.

“**...in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation...**” There is no nation on Earth that you can go to so you can avoid living in a crooked and perverse nation. God wants us to live right in whatever nation we find ourselves.

“**...among whom ye shine as lights in the world.**”

- We need to make straight paths for our feet (Heb 12:13, Mark 1:3).
 - Jesus prayed that God would keep us from the evil that is in this world (John 17:15).
 - Go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15).
 - God doesn't want us hiding away in a monastery or nunnery away from the world.
 - The lusts of your flesh can still defeat you. You'll be a carnal monk or nun.
 - You can't shine as lights in the world if you are isolated from the world.
 - Be separated, not isolated: be distinctly different while living in the presence of lost people.
 - Show them that not all people are crooked and perverse. Let them see that some have been made clean, pure, and righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - **Shine** in contrast to all the great darkness, wickedness, and evil that is in the world.
 - Don't aim to be like the world. If they don't see a difference, they won't be drawn to Jesus Christ.
-

Vs 16 “**Holding forth the word of life.**” When you hold it *forth*, you are offering it to others and making it available.

“**...that I may rejoice in the day of Christ...neither laboured in vain.**” If I preach the gospel to you and it helps you to live the Christian life, then when I meet Jesus Christ, not only will it give me joy to know that, but it will confirm that ministering the gospel of Christ was not a waste of my life.

Vs 17 If I lay down my life (giving up my time, my talents, my wants, my desires, my money) and you are benefited, I joy and rejoice with you all.

Vs 18 When you lay down your life for others, you rejoice also.

Vs 19 Paul wants to send Timothy to Philippi to find out the state of the believers there.

- Standing: our unchangeable (eternal) position before God by virtue of what Jesus Christ has made us.
 - Once we have believed, we are saved no matter how our life is going presently.
 - State: this is flexible and changeable, depending upon your circumstances (temporal).
 - Paul wanted to find out if the believers in Philippi were still living a good Christian life, still shining as lights in the world.
-

Vs 20 “**For I have no man likeminded...**” It is a rare thing to find another believer who genuinely cares for others the way you do (or the way Paul did).
