



Season 8 Podcasts

The 'Light ' of the Gospel

By

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So far in my 8th Season Podcast series I've shared thoughts with you about:

- 8 Rules for Bible Study
- 40 Rules for Ministry
- The Heart of the Gospel
- Defending and Confirming the Gospel
- Your Fellowship in the Gospel
- The Completion of the Gospel
- The Affection of the Gospel
- The Discernment of the Gospel
- The Excellence of the Gospel
- The Sincerity of the Gospel
- The Fruit of the Gospel
- The Advancement of the Gospel
- The Preaching of the Gospel
- Living for the Gospel
- Conduct Worthy of the Gospel

- Suffering for the Gospel
- The Joy of the Gospel
- The Humility of the Gospel
- The Sacrificial Mind of the Gospel
- The Gospel's Name Above Every Name
- The Glory and Honor of the Gospel
- The Power of the Gospel
- The Obedience of the Gospel
- The Gift of the Gospel

The next aspect I'd like to share with you is the 'Light' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Do all things without complaining and disputing, 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, 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.” Philippians 2:14-16

Keeping in mind the ‘inspirational flow’ of the Holy Spirit upon Paul’s writing to the Philippian Christians and we come to some practical areas:

- Do things without complaining
- Do things without disputing
- Become blameless
- Become harmless
- Without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation

Makes sense given that we serve God on earth. Complaining and disputing is part of everyday life now and has been for millennia. What the Holy Spirit wants is for God's people to be different than the world. People of the world 'complain' (γογγυσμός – grudging, murmuring). People of the world 'dispute' (διαλογισμός – reasoning that is self-based and therefore confused). Instead, the Holy Spirit wants Christians ('children of God') to become 'blameless' (ἄμεμπτος – without fault, without reproach), and 'harmless' (ἀκέραιος – innocent, pure, unmixed). Why? Because the Philippians lived (as do we) in the midst of a 'crooked' (σκολιός – bent because dried out, twisted, warped, perverse, unjust) and 'perverse' (διαστρέφω – distorted, corrupt, morally twisted in two) 'generation' (γενεά – age, generation, period of time).

Why? Why would the Holy Spirit inspire Paul to write those words? Because God wants His children to 'shine as lights in the world.' How can Christians 'shine as lights' in a complaining, disputing, crooked, perverse world? We already do! Look again at what Paul wrote: 'among whom you shine as lights in the world.' The Greek word for 'you shine' is the verb φαίνω. It is present tense, indicative mood, middle (or

passive) voice. It means 'to lighten, to appear, be seen, shine.' Christians 'are seen' by the world. If they know we are followers of Jesus Christ, they see us.

Christians didn't always 'shine.' In fact, we all started our lives in spiritual darkness. Here's what Paul told King Agrippa about his encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus:

"I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'" Acts 26:17-18

Here's what Paul wrote to the churches in Ephesus, Thessalonica, and Colosse:

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

"You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness." 1 Thessalonians 5:5

"giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:12-14

Christians 'are all sons of light.' That's who we are. We 'are not of the night nor of darkness.' We will stand out in this world as different than everyone else because we are different than everyone else. Christians are sons of light. Non-Christians are sons of darkness. That includes everyone of us because everyone born into this world is a child of darkness.

It is only through Jesus Christ that we have been delivered from the power darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of God.

Christians 'shine as lights in the world' and 'hold fast the word of life.' The Greek word for 'holding forth' is ἐπέχω. It means that we 'retain, pay attention to, give heed to.' To what? The 'word of life' – λόγος ζωῆ – the 'words, expressions' of Life Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is not saying Christians don't sin or waste their time or disobey God. Remember the context? 'Do all things without complaining and disputing.' Christians, unfortunately, do complain and dispute. The problem is that the rest of the world sees that because Christians 'shine as lights' in a crooked and perverse world. That why Paul wrote – '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.' Paul wanted the Philippian Christians to know that how they behaved in the world reflected on him as well as Christ. Paul did not want to run or labor in vain. Paul had invested his time, energy, and prayers into the lives of the Christians in

Philippi and it was important to him that his investment would 'pay off.'

I believe Christian parents, teachers, and pastors understand what Paul was saying. They invest themselves deeply into the lives of the people God brings into their lives to guide and teach. They want that investment to bring forth fruit that will last throughout eternity.

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In Christ's Love and Grace,

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