

9-10-17 Message

Where's the Light

Philippians 2:14-18

Introduction:

●Believers are called to _____ in verse 15, but this is prefaced by a command in verse 14. *Do all things without:*

- _____ or
- _____

●Grumbling and complaining will never make us appear as lights

1. In relationship to the w_____
2. In relationship to God's w_____

Shine Forth or Shrink Back? – our relation to the world

●Paul calls the generation of his day

- C_____ - the Greek word is where we get our word scoliosis, a severe curvature of the spine (Matt 7:13,14)
 - a. The way of the world – a w_____ and winding path
 - b. The way of Christ – a straight and n_____ path
- P_____ - the Greek word carries the idea of turning away; turning away from what?

●How crooked and perverse was Paul's generation compared to ours?

- Then: Unwanted babies were left naked and hungry in a g_____ heap. Now: people use abortion clinics.
- Then: R_____ waited alongside roads to rob people. Now: People are robbed everywhere
- Then: d_____ and sexual parties were a part of pagan religious rituals. Now: they are part of high school and college life.

●Because we live in a generation that is even more crooked and perverse, all that Paul writes to the Philippians applies directly to us.

1. The Christian character

- Blameless, innocent, and above r_____
- This does not mean we are perfect, but that we are characterized by these qualities. If we sin we are out of character and in that case we are marked by r_____.

2. When you are among the people of the world

- Do you shine forth as a light?
 - 1) This is not p_____ to them, but holding to your Christian character in the midst of other people's sin (e.g. you don't join in with their dirty talk, gossip, etc)
 - 2) This is not just avoiding sinful activity but doing whatever God w_____ (good works – Matt 5:14-16).
- Do you shrink back? – blending in with the world is allowing the world to i_____ you. We are to influence them.

Comply or Compromise? – our relation to God's word

●Paul states that at the same time that we shine as lights to the world we hold fast (literally, "hold out") the word of l_____

1. What is the word of life?

- It could mean the g_____ since that is the message of eternal life.
 - It could mean ALL of God's word since we are to l_____ by every word that comes from His mouth (Matt 4:4).
2. What is happening in "Christianity" today as far as compromise?
- Denial of the teaching that G_____ is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; reducing God to love.
 - Tolerance and acceptance of the h_____ lifestyle as compatible with Christianity.
 - Denial that the B_____ is God's word.
 - Since a believer is forgiven, they can s_____ all they want.
- The Bible CLEARLY:
- Teaches that same sex relations are s_____ (Rom 1:26,27; 1 Cor 6:9; Gen 19; 2 Pet 2:6; Jude 1:7)
 - Commands believers to l_____ everyone regardless of their lifestyle (Matt 5:44; 22:39)
 - This does not mean c_____ their lifestyle
 - This does mean doing g_____ to them (Gal 6:10)
 - The mark of a true Christian is one who's lifestyle is characterized by r_____ (1 Jn 3:8,9)
- We must comply with God's word and NEVER compromise it, even if it means big problems for us.
1. Paul was being poured out as a drink offering (see Num 15:5 were this was added to a s_____)
 2. The sacrifice was the Philippians' s_____ to God.
 3. The drink offering was Paul's i_____
 4. Obedience may require us to suffer, but we will shine as lights!

Conclusion:

Darkness saturates this world. It is at school, at your work, possibly among your family. It is all around you. Where is the light in the darkness that surrounds you? LET IT BE YOU!