

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

LIGHTS IN THIS DARK WORLD

Philippians 2:14-16

Called to follow the model of Christ in His servant-humiliation, believers in Christ are called to a life of obedience to God, in which we labor by God's grace to work *out* our salvation – to bring more and more of our thinking and doing under the rule of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is our calling, not only for ourselves in our relationship with God, but also **for the sake of the world around us** – the subject of w:14-16.

1. This crooked world – lost in darkness

Like rebellious Israel of old, the people of this world are a

“crooked and perverse generation” (Deut.32:5, Mat.17:17, Ac.2:40)

The darkness of unbelief, sin, confusion clouds the minds of people.

“Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.

... They do not come to the Light lest their deeds be exposed.”

John 3:19,20

“They live in futility of mind, with darkened understanding” Eph.4:17f

2. God's gracious provision: Christ the Light of the world

God sent His Son from heaven into this dark world to be

“THE Light of the world” – to give the light of the knowledge of the true and living God and be THE way to God.

“I am the Light of the world.”

“I am The Way, The Truth, & The Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me.” John 14:6

“This is eternal life, that they may know You – the only true true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

John 17:3

3. The Light of Christ must be seen in the lives of Christians – His lights in the world

BUT Jesus, having finished His work of atoning for sin on the cross, & now raised from the dead, is exalted to the Father's right hand in heaven.

Where can lost people in this world see the Light?

They must see it in the lives and words of His redeemed people – Christian believers, His church, “striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil.1:27)

2:14-16 calls us to shine as His lights in the darkness in 3 ways:

a. Do all things without grumbling or disputing.

b. Show ourselves to be God's children in the midst of a sinful world – endeavoring to be blameless, innocent, undefiled – NOT to merit grace from God, but by God's grace to point others to Christ.

c. Hold forth the “word of life” – the gospel of Christ.

For ALL of this we need the assurance & reality of vs. 13:

God working in us!.