

Lights in a Dark World

TEXT: Phil. 2:14-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **vs. 5-11.** IMITATE JESUS IN HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION.
- B. **vs. 12-13.** WE MUST DO OUR PART IN SALVATION.
- C. **vs. 14-16.** WE MUST CONTRAST WITH THE WORLD.

I. LIVE THIS WAY:

- A. WE ARE TO DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT MURMURINGS.
 - 1. **Murmuring:** *gongudzo*, “mutter, murmur, grumble, say anything in a low tone – of displeasure or complaining (more private than public).”
 - 2. Why were so many destroyed in the wilderness(**1 Cor. 10: 10-12**).
 - 3. Disrupted the Jerusalem church(**Acts 6:1; 1 Pet. 4:7-9**).
 - 4. We are not to murmur!
- B. DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT QUESTIONINGS AND DISPUTINGS.
 - 1. **Disputings, dialogismos**, “doubts, disputes, arguments.”
English word – “dialogue.”
 - 2. We are not to entertain doubts(**2 Tim. 2:11-13; James 1:5-8; Heb. 11:6**).
 - 3. We are to disdain falsehoods which cause doubts(**2 Tim. 2:23**).

II. BECOME THIS: “THAT YE MAY BECOME ...”

- A. BLAMELESS, *amemtōs* Jesus (**1 Pet. 1:19**).
ALMOST SYNONYMS. Church(**Eph. 5:27**).
- B. WITHOUT BLEMISH, *amometos* **Us!**
 - 1. Not because we are innocent (**1 John 1:8, 10**).
 - 2. Through the blood of Jesus (**1:6-7**).
 - a. Conditioned upon our walking in the light(**Rom. 6:1-2**).
 - b. Walking thus, we reflect HIS goodness(**1 Pet. 2:9, 11-12**).
- C. HARMLESS, *akeraios*, “Lit. unmixed, pure, metaphorically, guileless, sincere, harmless.” – *Vine*. “Innocent as far as evil is concerned.” – *Arndt & Gingrich*.

III. YET LIVE IN THIS SETTING.

- A. CROOKED (**Acts 2:40**). Not as it should be, difficult.
- B. PERVERSE – Stronger – distort and twist – a vessel misshapen on a potter’s wheel (**Acts 13:8-10; 20:30; Gal. 1:7**).
- C. OUR WORLD IS MISHAPEN, TWISTED, MISLED AND PERVERTED (**Isa. 5:18-23**).

IV. MAKING THIS CONTRAST.

- A. LIGHTS IN A DARK WORLD – A LUMINARY, *asv* footnote.
 - 1. **Matt. 5:14-16.**
 - 2. **1 Pet. 2:9.** A reflected light.
 - 3. To God be the glory(**Matt. 5:16**).
- B. OUR LIGHT CONTRASTED WITH DARKNESS(**Eph. 5:7-14**).
- C. “HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE.”

1. **epecho**, “hold upon, then direct towards, give heed, take heed ... hold one’s mind toward, to observe.” – **Vine**. “Hold fast, fix attention upon.” – **A&G**.
2. The statue of Liberty.
3. Cause great joy and fellowship with their teachers(**vs. 17-18**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. WHAT WOULD GIVE US ALL GREAT JOY TODAY?
- B. HAVE YOU OBEYED THE GOSPEL?