

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

By James M. Duncan, Pastor

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#9 - SERIES: PHILIPPIANS

“Christ - “The Believer’s Joy”

TODAY’S MESSAGE:

“Lights in The World – Shine Brightly”

PHILLIPIANS 2:12-16

Thus, far in the second chapter of this Epistle, the apostle has set forth the *Plea* and the *Pattern*. The *Plea* is for self-renunciation, for lowliness of mind, and humility. Then the sublime example of Christ is set before us as the perfect *Pattern*. In this section, Paul presents a *PROCESS* whereby attainment is possible.

The Bible makes it clear that consistency in Christ-like living and service is not an option, but an expectation. As we examine this passage there are seven truths for us to learn.

I. THE CONNECTION V-12

The “*wherefore*” connects what Paul is about to say to what he has just said which was, “*let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*” (V-5) The point of his wherefore is this: now that you've seen the example, put it into practice and live it.

II. THE CONDUCT V-12

There are a lot of Church folks who live like an Angel in the presence of the Pastor, but live like the devil when they get around the corner.

III. THE COMMAND V-12

You will notice it does not say, “*work for your own salvation,*” but rather, “*work out your own salvation.*” To begin with, Paul is writing to people who are already “*saints*” (*Phil. 1:1*).

The verb “*work out*” carries the meaning of “*work to full completion.*” We are not saved by service - we are saved to serve!

Eph.2:8-10 (A-men!) The phrase **work out** conveys the idea of working something through to its ultimate conclusion. A good example would be working out a math problem.

IV. THE COMPANION V-13

Paul explains that it is God who strengthens us for service. Before we were saved He worked on us. Now He works **in us**. The word “*worketh*” means “*to energize*” and carries the idea of “*energizing or producing an effect.*”

V. THE COMPLIANCE V-14

As Christians, we don't *complain* - we *comply*. Jesus Christ is a personification of these words. The word **murmuring** is defined as *a secret displeasure, undertone, secret whispering*.

You can read about the children of Israel in Exodus 16 as they were in the wilderness or in *Numbers 14* and *chapter 16* at the murmurings and rebellion of Korah. Paul warns us when he said in *1 Cor. 10:9-10*. The word **disputing** is defined as an **open discussion or debate**.

We have probably all met someone who claimed to have the *gift of criticism*. Listen beloved - There is **NO** place for **murmurings and disputings** in the Christian life.

VI. THE CHARACTER V-15

As pilgrims passing through this world, we must live *blameless* lives for the cause of Christ which means to be without fault before others. The word *harmless* means unmixed and has to do more with our inward state. “*Without rebuke*” means “to be above reproach, without blemish or defect.”

VII. THE CONCERN V-16

In *verse 15* we see lifestyle as we are to shine as **lights in the world**. But here in *V-16* we are reminded of our labour in **holding forth the word of life**.