

## **Lights in a Dark World**

### **Philippians 2:14-16**

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 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, 16 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. NKJV

Paul lets them know that they are special. That as Jesus, God's only begotten Son, so they too are the children of God. That is special. In our world today we have minimized this special position by saying that everyone is a child of God.

But the Bible does not teach that. Jesus taught that there are two groups. The one group are the children of God and the other the children of the devil. One group is in light while the other is in darkness. One group is free while the other is enslaved to Satan.

The Bible does teach that mankind are brothers. That is we are all from the same stock, all of the same parents. But spiritually speaking the two groups are as different as light and darkness. They are as different as wheat and tares. They are as different as sheep and goats.

God's people were always meant to be a special people.

Ex 19:3-6 3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:4'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." NKJV

1 Peter 2:9-10 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. NKJV

I. We are lights in a dark world.

A. Jesus also spoke of us as light.,

1. Matt 5:14-16 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. NKJV

B. Paul in other places.

1. Eph 5:8-14 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness,

righteousness, and truth),<sup>10</sup> finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.<sup>11</sup> And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.<sup>13</sup> But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.<sup>14</sup> Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." NKJV

## II. Holding fast the Word of Life

- A. John 6:68-69 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.<sup>69</sup> Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." NKJV
- B. 1 Peter 1:22-23 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, <sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, NKJV

## III. Why a dark world

- A. It is a crooked, twisted world.
  - 1. When I was a kid, dad and I would go and cut fence posts out of the hedge rows. Some of those posts were so crooked you could had screwed them into the ground.
  - 2. Dad would say, "As long as they have one straight side we could use them."
  - 3. The world of Paul's day was crooked and perverse.
    - a. Morally almost anything was acceptable.
    - b. Sexual perversion was everywhere.
    - c. Even the pottery was covered with pornographic art.
- B. It is a perverse, distorted world.
  - 1. Society wants to break every command of God and yet have a prosperous successful society.
    - a. They want to do away with marriage so they have no guilt about their living.
    - b. They want to be able to kill the most helpless of society and call it choice and health care.
    - c. If you did to dogs, what the abortionists do to babies you would be in prison for the rest of your life.

- d. They cheapen life at every turn.
    - (1) through the teaching of evolution.
    - (2) through abortion.
    - (3) through so called mercy killing.
    - (4) and the right to die is really a right to not be a burden on the finances of our society.
  - e. And most of the mainline so called Christian denominations have signed on to the program.
2. That is like the chickens inviting the foxes to move in with them and hoping for a happier life.
- a. With our so called “no fault divorce” we have made marriage little more than hooking up or serial monogamy.
  - b. I am not angry at the people caught up in those things any more than I could be angry with children who are simply following what their parents have taught them.
  - c. Their problem is with our leaders, not with our followers.
  - d. But we do the stupidest things and expect good results.
  - e. Are you shocked by the tremendous increase in sexual assaults in our military.
    - (1) I am not, you reap what you sow. If we want a secular society they we can expect secular results.
    - (2) A recent headline from CNN “Obama: Pentagon leaders 'ashamed' over sexual assaults plaguing military”

#### IV. How to shine

- A. By not complaining in what God has given us to do.
  - 1. Of all the things Paul could have listed, does it amaze you that this is the first?
    - a. But it is one that we have the most trouble with.
    - b. Some of the nicest people I know are perpetual complainers.
    - c. But let us not forget that it was from complaining against God and refusing to do what He asked that a whole generation died in the wilderness.
  - 2. In America we are the biggest complainers with the least to complain

about.

3. We have raised a generation that is “entitled” and will burn down the cities if they do not get what they want.

4. But God help us, God’s people have fallen right into it.

B. By not disputing with our fellow servants.

1. Everyone of us knows what should be done and how it should be done and we sure hope that somebody will to it and do it our way.

C. What we become.

1. Blameless.

a. No one has anything to accuse us of.

b. 1 Peter 3:13-17 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. NKJV

2. Harmless.

a. Jesus said His followers are to harmless as doves.

b. People should not be afraid of us if we reflect the love of Jesus.

3. Children of God without fault.

a. Like Daniel of old when they looked at his record to find a case of offence they could find none but had to accuse him in regards to the devotion to His God.

b. If all they can say of us is we are too much like Jesus then we are OK.

c. If all they can say is that we stand against sin and immorality then we are OK.

d. If all they can say is that we are naive because we are not clever like them then we are OK

e. Remember sheep and doves are gentle.