

4/4/10 (pm) - Series on Philippians - Sermon 19

# **Shining Like Stars**

**Philippians 2:14-18**

***Theme:** Christians are to work out their salvation by doing everything without grumbling or disputing.*

The Apostle Paul's words in 2:14-18 could be summarised by:

*Work out your salvation (2:14),*

*Shine in your generation (2:15-18).*

## **A. Work out Your Salvation (2:14)**

*Why did Paul specifically say 2:14?*

Many feel, because of the language used, that he was comparing the Philippian Christians to the Israelites grumbling about their hardships in the wilderness after they came out of Egypt, *cf.* Num. 11:4-6; 14:2, 26; Deut. 9 (cf. 9:7).

*Grumblings* describe whispering complaints, talking in secret about someone.

*Disputes* refer to useless or ill-natured disputing in ways that are divisive.

Philippians may have been guilty of:

- *Grumbings* concerning leaders in the congregation, other members of the congregation, outsiders at whose hands they suffered.
- *Disputes* between members of the congregation, between members and the leadership, between members and outsiders.

Why are grumblings and disputes  
among Christians bad?

**They damage Christians on a  
personal level.**

They resist the teaching of Romans  
8:28.

It matters what other people think  
of you!

*Are you a grumbler/complainer?*

**They damage Christians on the  
corporate level.**

They ensure a damaging witness to  
those outside the church.

## **B. Shine in Your Generation (2:15-18)**

**Blameless:** free from accusation in observable conduct, *cf.* 3:6.

**Pure:** purity of motive.

**Without fault:** in the sight of God, *cf.* Eph. 1:4.

**Crooked & depraved generation:**  
language from Deuteronomy 32:5.

**Shine like stars in the Universe.**

**Holding out the Word of life:** The  
Gospel of salvation preached and  
practiced.

As the Philippians do 1:27a,  
2:12c, 2:14 they will show  
Godliness, Christ-likeness,  
spiritual life, truth in the midst of  
ungodliness and spiritual  
darkness.

There will be an outward display  
of inward Godly nature.

At the same time they will hold out  
the offer of the Gospel.

As the light of the world the  
Philippians will shine! *cf.* Matthew  
5:14.

*For Christians to shine like stars in  
our Godless society we must live  
Christ-like lives.*

*Living a Christ-like life means not  
grumbling and complaining!*

*What do you shine as?*

Such living by the Philippians, and what the Lord had done through Paul in their lives, would cause the Apostle to boast of God's grace at Jesus' return, *cf.* 2:16b.

Paul humbly saw his sacrifice as a compliment to theirs! 2:17a.

He invites them to rejoice with him, *cf.* 2:17b-18.

# Conclusion—Shine Like Stars!

*Let us humbly submit to Christ,  
letting go of things we must let go  
of.*

*Let us be done with the incidental  
and embrace the substantial and  
the eternal!*

*Let us be Christ-like and shine like stars in our dark society.*

*May the Spirit use us to show people the truth and to lead them to the truth as we hold out the Word of life!*