

Shine Like Stars in the World

Philippians 2:12-18

Paul told the Philippians that they were “stars in the world.” How do you spot star-quality Christians? Philippians 2:12-18 clearly answers that question. Star-quality Christians have made 5 important commitments.

I will do my part (v.12).

In the first century the verb “work out” was used for mining silver. Workers would enter the mine and bring out the silver that was already there. In the same way we are to “work out” the implications of our salvation in every area of life.

I will depend on God (v.13).

God always makes the first move. Salvation is God’s work from first to last. This verse also tells us that God gives both the will and the ability to do what He commands.

I will not complain (v.14).

In the Greek the word “arguing” might be better translated as “murmuring.” It’s a word whose sound conveys the meaning, like the English words hiss or hum. It has the idea of muttering under your breath.

I will be different to make a difference (v.15-16a).

Paul uses three key words to describe how we should live:

- 1) Blameless—above reproach. No serious accusation can stick.
- 2) Pure—high-quality, unmixed alloy. What you see is what you get.
- 3) Faultless—fit to be offered to God-like a lamb without spot or blemish.

We will make an impact on the world by lives that are visibly, observably, measurably, noticeably and obviously different from the people around us. *We are to be different to make a difference.* Our values set us apart from the surrounding culture.

I will live for others (v.16b-18).

Paul explains it in two key phrases. First, he says he looks forward to boasting about the Philippians when Christ returns (v.16b). Second, Paul mentions being “poured out as a drink offering” on their behalf (v.17).

“You are the light of the world” . . . “You shine like stars in the world.” The world has its stars and God has His. God help us to shine like stars so that others will see Jesus in us.