

Reflecting His Light

Philippians 2:12-18

Big Idea: You can't earn salvation, but God works in you to make you more like Jesus. That's sanctification—the daily surrender. Don't curse the darkness around you. Instead, reflect His light to those who are blind without Christ. You're called to shine.

Key Takeaways:

1. Sanctification is a Process - God is continuously working in believers to make them more like Jesus
2. Position vs. Practice - Our position in Christ is blameless; our practice should reflect that truth
3. Light in Darkness - Christians are called to shine Christ's light in a crooked and twisted generation
4. Sacrificial Living - Following Christ means being willing to pour out our lives for others
5. Joy in Obedience - True joy comes from knowing Jesus and reflecting His character

Scriptures:

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| ☐ Philippians 1:6 | ☐ John 13:1-17 |
| ☐ Romans 3:20 | ☐ Galatians 2:20 |
| ☐ Ephesians 2:8-9 | |
| ☐ Acts 1:8 | |
| ☐ John 3:19 | |
| ☐ Matthew 5:14-16 | |
| ☐ Psalm 119:105 | |

Opening Question:

When you were growing up, who was someone who "reflected Christ's light" to you? How did they impact your life?

Discussion Questions:

What does Paul mean by "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"? How is this different from "working FOR your salvation"?

The sermon mentioned three stages of salvation: justification, sanctification, and glorification. Can you explain each stage in your own words?

How does it encourage you to know that "it is God who works in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure"? Share an example of how you've seen God working in your life to change you.

What keeps us from living authentically for Christ in all circumstances?

Why do you think Paul connects "doing all things without grumbling" to being a light in the world? What areas of your life are most prone to grumbling or complaining? How can cultivating gratitude help eliminate complaining?

The sermon emphasized: "The more we reaffirm who we are in Christ, the more our behavior will reflect our true identity." How does this truth change the way you approach spiritual growth? What practical steps can you take to regularly remind yourself of your identity in Christ?

The sermon challenged us not to curse the darkness but to shine light. What's the difference in practical terms? How do you typically respond to the "crooked and twisted generation" around you? With anger? Fear? Compassion? What would it look like to respond more like Jesus?

Paul was willing to be "poured out as a drink offering" for others. What does sacrificial living look like in your current season of life? What fears or concerns hold you back from living more sacrificially?

Practical Applications:

Option 1: Gratitude Journal

- For the next 7 days, write down 3 things you're grateful for each day. Notice how this affects your tendency to grumble or complain.

Option 2: Identify Your "Dark Couch"

- Spend time in prayer asking God to shine His light on areas of your life that need His cleansing work. Confess what He reveals and ask for His help to surrender those areas.

Option 3: Be Intentional About Reflecting Light

- Identify one person in your life who is walking in spiritual darkness. Commit to praying for them daily and looking for one practical way to show them Christ's love this week.

Option 4: Disciple Someone

- If you're not currently investing in someone else's spiritual growth, pray about who God might be calling you to disciple. Reach out to that person this week.

Option 5: Memorize Scripture

- Memorize Philippians 2:14-15 this week. Let it shape how you respond to circumstances.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Thank God for His work of sanctification in our lives and ask for power to reflect Christ's light in our generation. Pray for those in our lives who are walking in darkness.
