

PHILIPPIANS

JESUS OUR JOY

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 3, 2021

As Lights in the World

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 2:14-16](#)

What is “grumbling and disputing” (14)?

What is “blameless and innocent” (15)?

“Children of God” versus a “crooked and perverse generation” (15)

“Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak,
and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

May my teaching drop as the rain,
my speech distill as the dew,
like gentle rain upon the tender grass,
and like showers upon the herb.

For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;
ascribe greatness to our God!

“The Rock, his work is perfect,
for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
just and upright is he.

They have dealt corruptly with him;
they are no longer his children because they are blemished;
they are a crooked and twisted generation.

Do you thus repay the Lord,
you foolish and senseless people?

Is not he your father, who created you,
who made you and established you?” ([Deuteronomy 32:1-5](#))

The Church is to do and be what Israel failed to do and be. We are to “shine as lights” (15):

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” ([Matthew 5:14-16](#))

For Further Discussion: [Philippians 2:14-16](#)

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

- **Think about a conflict** from this past week. **What was difficult** about this conflict? How are you **personally tempted** in conflict?
- What **conflicts were the Philippians experiencing** as followers of Jesus?
- How does Paul **encourage them to persevere** in vv.14-16?
- Paul tells us that an ancient curse from [Deuteronomy 32:5](#) has been reversed for the church! It's a source of strength that we have been set apart as “children of God” (15). **How does the truth that you are God's own encourage you today?**
- Paul tells us it is wise to expect opposition as we “in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation” (15). **How does this expectation help us persevere?**
- Paul uses an Old Testament prophetic image from [Daniel 12:2-3](#) to tell the church we should expect to “shine as lights in the world” (15). **How does this help us to be faithful?**
- What does it mean to “**hold fast to the word of life**” (16)
- **Pray together** in light of this week's passage.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org