

“Be a Shiner, not a Whiner”

Philippians 2:14-18

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All Scripture quoted from ESV unless otherwise noted

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that 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, ¹⁶holding 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. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Light Dispels darkness

Colossians 1:12-13 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Isaiah 59:10 We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among those in full vigor we are like dead men.

Isaiah 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Don't let complaining Dim the brightness of the light you reflect

- *Complaining is a flaw that only gets Worse as it is used*
- *Complaining is a habit that strengthens itself*
- *Complaining obscures the love of God*

Your need to love others is far greater than to win an argument.

Don't Diffuse the brightness of the light of God's glory

- *The world places a large value on Authenticity*
- *Being in a dark place only increases the Importance of light*

Don't lose your Connection to the power source

- *Brighter lights require greater Power*

Light reflects reality

You are a Light-Bearer, not the light source

Matthew 5:14-16 “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.

DIG IN!

Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning’s message.

1. ***What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today’s passage/message? Why?***
2. ***Why do you suppose complaining is as common as it is? How would you counsel someone who struggles with complaining? What harm does complaining do?***
3. ***What does v.14 indicate about the attitude behind one’s actions? Isn’t it enough to obey (v.12)? Why not?***
4. ***If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing, what would you choose?***
5. ***How can Christians ‘shine like stars’ without coming across as overly pious or ‘holier than thou?’***
6. ***In light of today’s passage, how can we explain and justify the apparent complaints issues by the psalmist?***
7. ***Since the gospel is truly the Word of Life, why are we not always prepared to share it? What do you need to do in order to be prepared to share it?***
8. ***Read through the book of Philippians this week. Are you seeing it any differently now?***
9. ***What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?***