



# Brown CG Discussion Guide

To Be Content: In Our Purity  
Philippians 2:12-18 – October 4, 2020

- **Starter Question: When have you seen someone be a light in the darkness?**

## Discussion of Scripture

**Context:** Paul writes his letter to the Philippians while he is in Roman prison facing possible execution, yet he encourages them toward contentment, unity, and deepened commitment to the Lord. Last week, we looked at Philippians 2:1-11, in which we saw Christ's example of humility to us. *Therefore*, in view of this, Paul encourages us toward that same model of faithfulness through a lived-out sense of contentment and purity.

### Philippians 2:12-18 (ESV) – Lights in the World

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

*<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Even 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. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.*

### For Discussion:

- I. In verse 12, Paul urges the Philippians to continue on in their obedience and to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”. **What does it mean to “work out your own salvation”? What does it mean to do this “with fear and trembling”?**
- II. **Given that we are to “work out [our] own salvation” (v. 12), how does this mesh with verse 13, which says that “it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure”?**
- III. In verse 14, Paul writes some ways that this outworking of your faith should look like—we should do things “without grumbling or disputing”, and we are to be “blameless”, “innocent” and “without blemish”. **What happens when we grumble and dispute? Be honest—have you grumbled or disputed lately? What does it look like to be blameless? At home? At church? At work?**
- IV. **How does abstaining from grumbling and disputing, and therefore living a pure life, make us**

**“shine as lights” “in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation”?**

- V. What are some opportunities for you to shine as a light in your day to day life?**
- VI. Paul encourages and hopes that the Philippians would “[hold] fast to the word of life” (v. 14). In this context, what does it mean to “hold fast”? We are to “shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life”. How does God’s word fuel our light? How might we starve the light?**
- VII. In verse 17, Paul likens his sufferings to a “drink offering” in the sacrificial system (see Numbers 28:7). He says that even though he is sacrificing everything for them, he is “glad and [rejoices] with [them] all”. What sacrifices have you seen someone make, that made them joyful? What about you? How does Paul’s joy displayed amidst suffering speak to you? How might you emulate Paul in this? Do you have a hard time finding joy in your current, tough situation?**
- VIII. Why should the Philippians also “be glad and rejoice with [Paul]” (v. 18)? He’s in jail, facing death!**

**Responding in Prayer:**

1. Continue to pray for the schooling situations carried by the many families, kids, and teachers during this unprecedented time. Pray for endurance and strength for them. Pray for our Wednesday at Henderson Hills ministry to kids and adults in our community. Pray that it would bless many, and that the sacrifices being made would bring joy! Pray that the Lord would draw kids and adults alike to Himself in this time!
2. Pray for our divided nation. Pray that our church would be a light shining in this world, especially now!
3. Pray for our elders, pastors, staff, and leaders, as they seek to shepherd well during a complicated, difficult time. Praise God for their faithfulness, and for how they have held fast to the word of life!