

LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE

PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18

HOW DO WE SHINE FOR JESUS IN SUCH A DARK AND INHOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT?

First off, stop “*arguing and complaining*” **v. 14**

- Majoring in the minors
- **ARM CHAIR QUARTERBACKING**
- No pastor and no church is perfect—not even close. Bad plays will get called and people will run dumb routes and the QB will throw some lousy passes

2. WHY IS COMPLAINING AND ARGUING SO HARMFUL?

FIRST: Both are completely opposite of Christ's attitude which believers are to emulate. **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8**

SECOND: Both hurt the cause of the Gospel of Christ among unbelievers and to the unsaved world.

THIRD: Both divide the church and wound sheep.

Unfortunately, many people are looking for directions to the Complaint Department—not the prayer room.

DON'T HELP THE DEVIL BY ARGUING AND COMPLAINING—HE DOES JUST FINE ON HIS OWN.

3. CLEANING UP THE LOCKER ROOM

Paul explained the importance of the believers' actions—they needed to clean up their locker room in order to fulfill their mission of spreading the gospel.

- Paul's advice for their “housecleaning” is summed up in two words.
- **FIRST:** the church ought to be “*blameless*”—beyond reproach, incurring no justifiable criticism. This does not mean sinless perfection, but above and beyond legitimate criticism of the unbelieving world.
- **SECOND:** the church ought to be “*pure*” (also translated “innocent”). 24 carats—the genuine Super Bowl ring

4. PLAYING LIKE SUPERSTARS

When believers remain pure and blameless, the contrast to our culture is so stark that we **SHINE LIKE SUPERSTARS.**

- Christians are to live as lights in a dark world, as shining witnesses to God's truth.
- Our lives should be characterized by moral purity, patience, and peacefulness—so that we will “*shine like stars*” in a dark and depraved world.
- Are you shining brightly, or are you clouded by complaining and arguing?

**OUR ROLE IS TO SHINE UNTIL JESUS RETURNS
AND BATHES THE WORLD IN HIS RADIANT GLORY.**

BE ON HIS HIGHLIGHT REEL!

5. BEING A HOLD OUT v. 16

So the Philippian church should *hold out the word of life* by spreading the truth of the gospel beyond the doors of the church.

- The Greek word translated “*hold out*” was used in secular culture for offering a glass of wine to a guest. Don’t take that too literally now!
- The phrase is also translated “*holding fast to the word of life*” (NRSV)

Both meanings work together—as we “**HOLD FAST**” to the truth, we can “**HOLD OUT**” that truth to others.

6. POURED INTO, THEN POURED OUT v. 17

God had poured into Paul; Paul had poured into the Philippian church.

- To be “*poured out as a libation*” was a kind allegory for dying serving Jesus.
- The libation (*drink offering*) was an important part of the Jewish sacrificial system. It involved wine being poured out on an altar as a sacrifice to God. See **GENESIS 35:14; EXODUS 29:40-41; NUMBERS 28:24**

Giving Him your **ALL** and your **BEST** then getting
A VICTOR’S GATORADE SHOWER UNTO THE LORD
AT THE END OF THE GAME!

7. HOW TO BE GLAD v. 18

How do we experience gladness when our world seems to be falling apart around us?

- Remember that *He who began a good work* in you will carry it on to completion. **PHILIPPIANS 1:6**
- Remember the love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. **ZECHARIAH 4:6**
- Remember that joy comes as a byproduct of serving others, not serving yourself.
- Remember to seek encouragement from fellow believers. **PHILIPPIANS 2:1, 19-20**

**COACH WILL NOT LET US DOWN—LET'S NOT LET HIM DOWN,
AND WE WILL SHINE IN THE LIGHT OF JOYOUS VICTORY**