

## HOW SHALL WE THEN LIVE?      Philippians 2:1-18

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. <sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining and arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can criticize you. **Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.** <sup>16</sup> Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.      Philippians 2:12-16

This world is and has always been **CROOKED** and **PERVERSE!** Jeremiah 17:9

The takeover of America of ungodly people is **NO SURPRISE!**

What has been surprising is the seeming **QUICKNESS** of all this!

*The foundations of law and order have collapsed. What can the righteous do?* Psalm 11:3

## HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?      3 Basic Ideas

### 1. Where We Are!      in a world full of crooked and perverse people. (15)

Paul is writing to the Philippians at Philippi--The First European church. What was Philippi like?

What was the Philippians Church like?

- > **POOR CHURCH**      2 Corinthians 8:2    deep poverty
- > **PERSECUTED CHURCH**      Phil. 1:28    enemies without    Phil. 3:2,18    enemies within
- > **PARTITIONED CHURCH**      Phil. 2:2, 4:2    Discord and disunity

But, Paul expected **JOY** in a church under these conditions!!!

"crooked" [Gr. *scolios*]    bent, twisted, deviated from standard    spiritual idea-- twisted in terms of truth, virtue

*Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose words are twisted.* <sup>13</sup> *These men turn from the right way to walk down dark paths.* <sup>14</sup> *They take pleasure in doing wrong, and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.*

<sup>15</sup> *Their actions are crooked, and their ways are wrong.*      Proverb 2:12-15    Solomon's Day

*Their feet run to do evil, and they rush to commit murder. They think only about sinning. Misery and destruction always follow them.* <sup>8</sup> *They don't know where to find peace or what it means to be just and good. They have mapped out crooked roads, and no one who follows them knows a moment's peace.*      Isaiah 59:7-8    Isaiah's Day

*Be saved from this crooked generation.*      Act 2:40    Early church days

"perverse" [Gr. *diastrephō*]    distort, change meaning of    spiritually-- morally deviate, change laws

*I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.* <sup>16</sup> *They do not belong to this world any more than I do..* <sup>18</sup> *Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.* John 17:15

<sup>9</sup> *When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin.* <sup>10</sup> *But I wasn't talking about unbelievers.....* <sup>11</sup> *I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people....* I Corinthians 5:9-11

We are exactly where we are **supposed to be** in a world that is exactly as God describes it!

### 2. Who We Are!      lives as children of God, shining like bright lights. Philippians 2:15

**We are all God's children!** Physically, biology-- yes    Spiritually-- **NO!**    John 8:42

*But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know Him.* I Jn. 3:1

*For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.*      Romans 8:16

**So here we are as children of God exactly where God wants us to be in crooked and perverted world**

**We are all bright lights!** *phōstēr*    We are Light in a kingdom of Darkness    Colossians 1    Matt.5

Our Light comes from the indwelling Christ (John 1) and the Gospel (2 Cor. 4:4)

**We know who we are and where we are for such a time as this!**

### 3. How Then Shall We Live?

<sup>37</sup> Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, You say I Am. .... <sup>36</sup> But My Kingdom is not of this world.  
John 18:37, 36

His kingdom has **NO CONNECTION** to this world! We as believers live in a **PARALLEL UNIVERSE!**

One day He **WILL RULE** with a rod of iron Isaiah 2:3

<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: "The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever." Rev. 11:15

**We Need to Understand that there is NO man, event, power, person, circumstance on earth that has ANY bearing or effect on His Kingdom!!!!**

**Here is How We Are to LIVE!**

- |                                                        |                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>HUMBLENESS</b> vs 5   Peter 2:12, James 4:10     | 2. <b>HOLINESS</b> vs 12, 13, 15, Blameless, Holy |
| 3. <b>SHARING</b> vs 16 Holding forth the word of life | 4. <b>REJOICING</b> vs 17, 18                     |

**BUT THIS IS THE KEY** → <sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining and arguing, Philippians 2:14

With each other? No! Stop complaining **to God!**

Moses Deuteronomy 32 Root problem vs. 51 -- *This is because both of you broke faith with Me*  
*Broke faith = They quit trusting God and started complaining*

*They grumbled in their tents and did not obey the Lord.* Psalm 106:25

Do you think it is possible for anything in this world to have any effect or harm the church of Jesus Christ?

We need to stop questioning >the will of God >the work of God >the wisdom of God

We need to simply live Humble, Holy, Sharing, Rejoicing Lives in the World and Realize

**Everything is RIGHT ON SCHEDULE**