

Lights in the World

Philippians 2:14–30 (NASB)







- Philippians 2:15 reminds us that *“in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,”* we have been called to *“shine as lights in the world.”* This verse stresses the critical importance of our gospel witness in the world—especially in those places where the spiritual darkness is greatest.

Lights in the World

Philippians 2:17–30

The apostle Paul gives us the examples of **three men**, each of whom presents a different facet of what it takes to radiate the light of the gospel in the midst of overwhelming spiritual darkness.

Lights in the World

Philippians 2:17–30

1. True light is self-emptying
2. True light is self-denying
3. True light is self-sacrificing

True light is self-emptying

Philippians 2:17–18

***** Paul *****

But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

¹⁸ You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me

True light is self-emptying

Philippians 2:17–18

“being poured out as a drink offering.”

Old Testament sacrificial system. In most instances, a drink offering was not an independent offering; it was offered along with a burnt offering

(Exodus 29:40; Num. 15:4–5, 6, 10)



True light is self-denying

Philippians 2:19–24

But I hope, in the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. ²⁰ For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

True light is self-denying

Philippians 2:19–24

²² But you know of his proven character, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I myself will also be coming shortly

True light is self-denying

Philippians 2:19–24

When you begin to realize that

(1) over two billion people in this world have never heard the good news of the gospel;

True light is self-denying

Philippians 2:19–24

When you begin to realize that

- (1) over two billion people in this world have never heard the good news of the gospel;
- (2) that there are almost two billion more who have heard the gospel but have rejected it;
and

True light is self-denying

Philippians 2:19–24

When you begin to realize that

- (1) over two billion people in this world have never heard the good news of the gospel;
- (2) that there are almost two billion more who have heard the gospel but have rejected it; and
- (3) that there are nearly an additional two billion people who may call themselves “Christians,” but who still do not know the Christ of the New Testament...

then you begin to realize ...

True light is self-sacrificing

Philippians 2:25-30

But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

True light is self-sacrificing

Philippians 2:25-30

28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly, so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. 29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold people like him in high regard, 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to compensate for your absence in your service to me.

Lights in the World

Philippians 2:17–30

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Let's Pray

