

Living in Light of the Empty Tomb... Shining the Light in Cultural Darkness

Philippians 2:10-11 At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:12-16 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. **14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

- So, how do we live in light of an empty tomb in a culture that seems to grow continually darker?

1. Keep _____ in your faith.

Philippians 2:12-13 Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

- We put ourselves in such a position so God can work in us, and He will.

2. Don't be afraid to _____ in contrast to the world.

Philippians 2:15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3. Intentionally _____ of Jesus in everything you do.

Philippians 2:15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.

- There is a sense in which we make choices to shine, but there is another sense in which shining is a byproduct of growing in our faith and standing firm in morality.

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

4. **Build your life on** _____.

Philippians 2:16 ...holding fast the word of life.

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.

Further Thought:

- What are you doing to grow your faith?
- Standing for what is right is sometimes difficult. Think of at least three regular commitments you must make so you will stand straight in a crooked world.
- How are you holding fast the Word of Life? Do you need to make any changes in order to do this?