

The Exceptional Life - 2

Philippians 2:14-30

Phil 2:14-16 *Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*

Blameless

Luke 1:5-7 *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. NKJV*

Zacharias and Elizabeth both _____ in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly.

1 Thess 3:11-13 *Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. NKJV*

Our hearts are to be blameless in _____ before our God.

Harmless

Matt 10:16-17 *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. NKJV*

- We are to be harmless as doves.
- We will also be children of God without _____. (Phil 2:15)

The Norm

A crooked and perverse generation – A warped and morally corrupt generation.

Gen 6:5-14 *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. ... 13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. NKJV*

Noah lived in a _____ and perverse generation.

Gen 6:14-22 *Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark — you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all*

flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. 21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them." 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did. NKJV

We Shine as lights to the world!

Matt 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. NKJV

Holding fast the word of life

John 6:68-69 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." NKJV

- We shine as lights in the world when we _____ the words of eternal life.
- We shine as lights in the world when we _____ the words of eternal life.
- Some believe that he is carrying forth the imagery of light to that of a lighthouse.

So that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

How _____ and useless it would have been for Paul if everything he did for the church there was done in vain.

The beating he took there was well _____ it if it produced believers who were able to shine as lights in the crooked and perverse generation in which they lived.

Three Examples

Paul

Phil 2:17-18 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me. NKJV

Paul would gladly suffer if the Philippians continued to live the _____ Christian Life.

Timothy

Phil 2:19-24 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. 23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. NKJV

Paul wants to know how the church is doing. The only way he can find out is by sending someone he trusts to bring him back a report.

Here again we see Timothy as the exception:

- Paul has no one who is _____-minded other than Timothy. (2:2 - like-minded and of one mind)

- Paul knows no one who will sincerely care for them. Remember that Timothy joined Paul shortly before they went to Philippi.
- The norm is for people to seek their own instead of the things which are of Christ Jesus.
- Paul alludes to his proven character.

Phil 2:25-30 *Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; 26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; 30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.* NKJV

Epaphroditus

Phil 4:18-19 *Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.* NKJV

- He was a part of the church in Philippi. He brought their gift to Paul and probably became sick while there.
- My _____ – There was a strong family bond since they were both forgiven by Jesus' blood.
- My fellow _____ – They worked together to spread the gospel.
- My fellow _____ – They were working or striving together for the gospel. They were pulling on the same side of the rope against a common enemy.
- Your _____ – He did his job to the fullest. He ministered to Paul's needs.
- He became sick and almost died. They would have worried about him and so Paul was anxious to send him home.
- Paul tells them to hold men like Epaphroditus in _____ esteem! He was willing to _____ for Christ's sake! He was shining as a light in the darkness.

Practical Application

- Let's stop complaining about how dark and crooked the world is.
- Take a small step to let your light shine. Remember a little light makes a big difference in a dark room.
 - Tell someone how wonderful it is to have a godly spouse.
 - Tell someone how being a Christian has really changed your life.
 - Brag on another Christian. Paul was bragging about Timothy and Epaphroditus.
 - Encourage someone to listen to the workshop with Matt Hennecke.
 - Invite someone to Visitor Sunday to hear Brian's lesson, "Jesus: Teacher of Teachers."