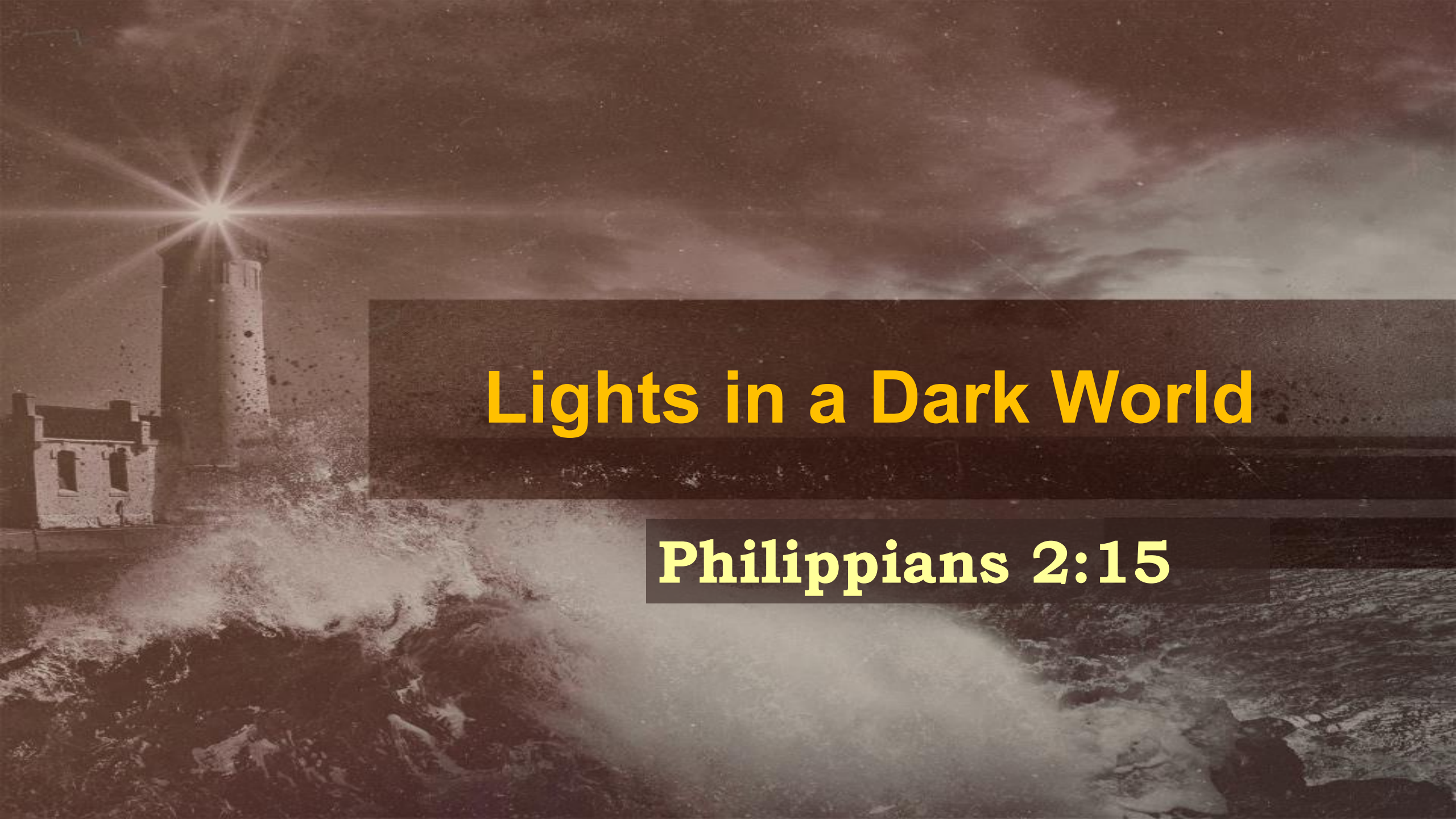




Lights in a Dark World

Philippians 2:15



- Last week, we noted that God calls us to be examples.
- ***Philippians 2:15*** reminds us that we shine as lights, “in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.”



- We must NEVER underestimate the power of example – **Matthew 5:13-16.**
- Jesus is the example we are called to imitate – **1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 2:5, 1 Peter 2:21, etc.**
- Today, we examine the other side...

The Darkness Around Us

Spiritual Darkness

- Though the Bible was written ~2000 years ago, it is as timely and true today as back then.
- Concerning the nature of man, the Bible is written as if it were an editorial of our times.

Spiritual Darkness

- Consider how numerous lists of sins are just as relevant today as back then
Galatians 5:19-21 - the works of the flesh
2 Timothy 3:1-5 - a “list of selfishness”
Romans 1:22-32 - the conduct of rejecting God
1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - those who will not inherit the kingdom of God
Etc.

Spiritual Darkness

- In addressing darkness:
- We could address compromise, ungodly attitudes
- We could address doctrinal error and practices.
- But in this lesson, we will focus on the dark wisdom of this world, as it is the force behind sinful conduct

Spiritual Darkness

The Bible contrasts light and darkness

- Physical light and darkness - **Genesis 1:2-5**
- **John 1:4-5** - the light shines in the darkness
- **John 3:19-20** - men loved darkness
- **Luke 11:34-36** - the lamp of the body is the eye

Spiritual Darkness

- **Ephesians 6:12** - the nature of our battle
- **Proverbs 4:19**, *“The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble”*

The Wisdom of this World

- **1 Corinthians 3:18-20**, the world's wisdom is foolishness to God
- We are living in a time of heightened "enlightenment".
We are living in the age of "Post-modernism".
- Often it leads to men rejecting God's wisdom
- **1 Corinthians 1:18-26**
- **1 Corinthians 2:13-14**

The Wisdom of this World

- **Romans 1:20-25**, futile thoughts and foolish hearts darkened.
Changed the glory of God into idols
Exchanged the truth of God for the lie

The Wisdom of this World

- **Romans 1:20-25**
- Realize that not everything that we learn today is true
- Naturalism teaches there is no God
- Schools reject the possibility of God
- Our entertainment leaves God out of the picture, or blasphemes Him
- Humanism is promoted with little resistance
- The morals of scripture are rejected or changed

The Wisdom of this World

- **Romans 1:20-25**
- Worldly wisdom says do whatever you want
- There is no absolute morality (except theirs)
- Promotes selfishness (though they would deny this)
- Pick and choose which laws you ought to follow

The Wisdom of this World

- **Romans 1:20-25**
- Provokes intolerance (while supposedly demanding tolerance), especially toward those who challenge their definitions of whatever they believe.

NOTE: If you can silence open and honest discussion on any subject, you can lead the majority around whatever path you want to take them.

The Wisdom of this World

- **Isaiah 5:20-21**, *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil. Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness. Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight.*
- **Proverbs 29:27**, *An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, And he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.*

The Wisdom of this World

- **James 3:13-18**
- The wisdom of this world:
- Has bitter envy and self-seeking in its heart
- Boasts and lies against the truth
- It is earthly (**worldly goals**), sensual (**appealing to lusts**), and demonic (**of the devil**)
- Confusion and every evil thing is there

Dealing with Darkness



Dealing with Darkness

- Learn about the darkness around us without being enveloped by it

Be alert

1 Peter 5:8

2 Corinthians 2:11 – be aware of Satan



Dealing with Darkness

- Prepare to answer to the best of your ability
1 Peter 3:15
2 Timothy 2:15 – rightly dividing the word of truth
- We must learn to expose what is wrong and why



Dealing with Darkness

- Prepare to answer to the best of your ability
- **2 Peter 1:19** - use God's word
- **Proverbs 2:10-13**
- **Matthew 10:16** - be wise as serpents,
harmless as doves



Dealing with Darkness

- We need to be willing to be different!
- **Cf. Proverbs 6:27** - can we take fire into our bosom



Dealing with Darkness

- We have no fellowship with the darkness
- **Ephesians 5:11**
Romans 13:12 - cast off the works of darkness



Dealing with Darkness

- Love one another
- We need each other as we engage this dark world
- **1 John 2:9-11, etc.**



Dealing with Darkness

- Learn self-discipline
- We need self-control in many areas as we engage this dark world
- **1 Corinthians 9:25** – temperate
2 Peter 1:6



Dealing with Darkness

- Pray about it continually!
- Jesus in the garden - **Luke 22:40, 46**
- Be serious and watchful in your prayers -
1 Peter 4:7
- **James 1:5** - if you lack wisdom, pray



Dealing with Darkness

- Understand godly wisdom
- **James 3:17-18** - contrasted with the sensual wisdom of this world
NOTE: These qualities are undeniably good.
- Let your actions and message be the wisdom of God -

1 Corinthians 2:4-5



Dealing with Darkness

- Finally, we must strive to be a proper example
- **John 8:12**
1 John 1:5-6
- **Matthew 5:14-16** - do not hide your light under a basket
- **Philippians 2:15**





**Is my light
chasing the
darkness away?**