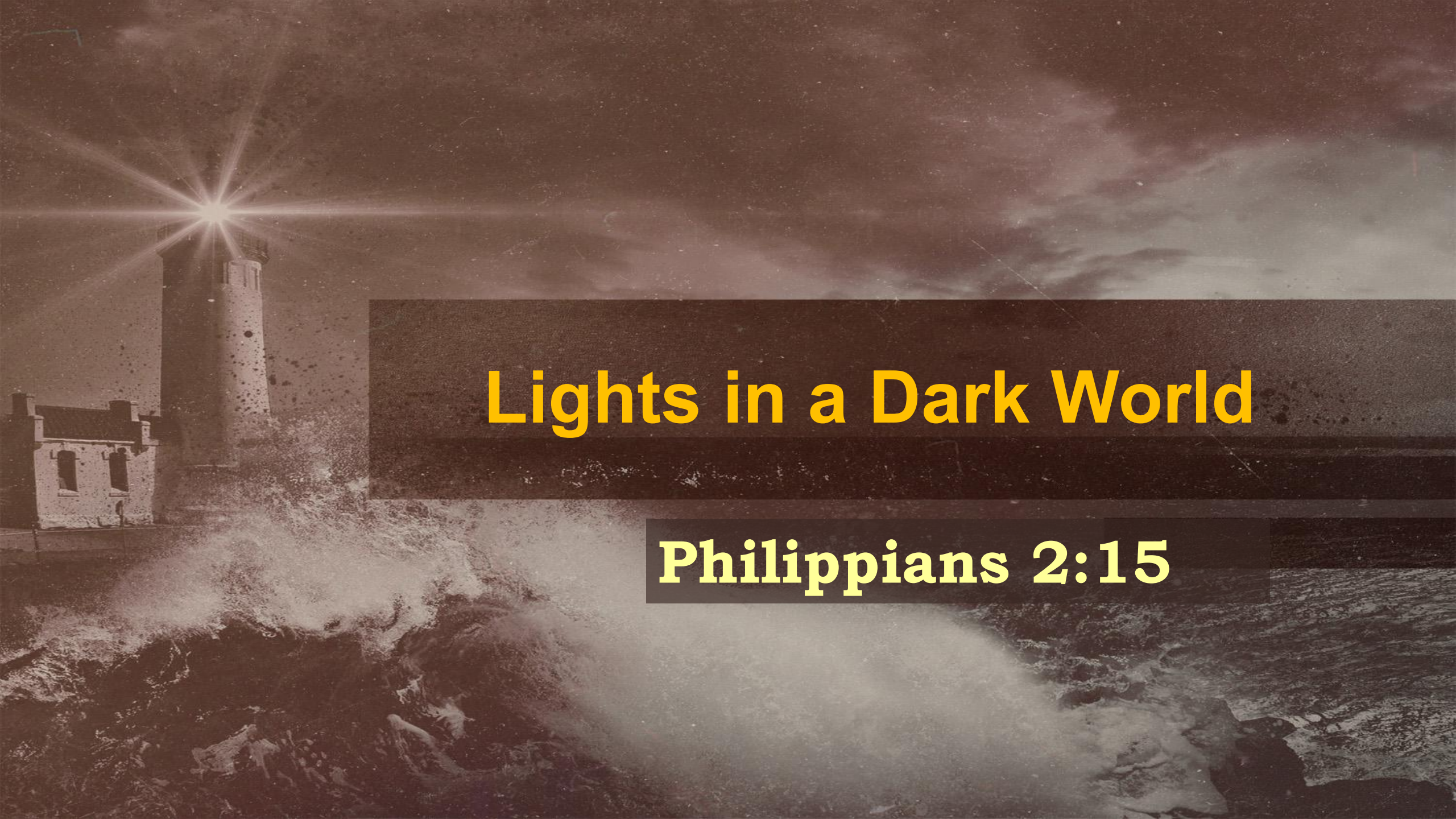




**What Does
Different Look
Like?**



Lights in a Dark World

Philippians 2:15

About being different

- We live in a time where so many want to simply blend in. Like a river, they want to take the way that is popular and offers the least amount of resistance.
- But there is something to be said about being different. In our society, sometimes standing out is a good thing.
- Still there are others who thrive on being different, just for sake of it. They want to stand out and be themselves. OFTEN, they are rebellious.

About being different

- As we shall see in this lesson, God WANTS us to be different.
- NOT just for the sake of it, but because when we serve Him, being different from this world's mindset will happen naturally.
- AND the more faithful we are to Him, the greater that difference will be.



**What Does
Different Look
Like?**

We are called to be different

- **Philippians 2:15** – lights in a dark world
- Be separate – **2 Corinthians 6:17**
- They think it strange – **1 Peter 4:3-4**
- Not conformed, but transformed –
Romans 12:1-2

Called to be different

- God's following has always stood out as different from the society around them.
- His people were often described as a remnant or few in number.
- Noah, only 8 souls saved
- The righteous of Israel were few in number. Even with righteous leaders, many followed their own ways (**cf. 2 Chronicles 27:2**)
- 3000 on Pentecost

Examples of different

- Jesus was different – in every way
- Simply because of who He was and His purpose, He was different. However as He lived, taught and interacted, He stood out.
- **Matthew 7:28-29**, He taught with authority
- **John 7:46**, no one ever spoke like this
- **Mark 6:1-6**, rejected in Nazareth
- **Matthew 10:24-25**, don't think it strange if they reject you...

Examples of different

- **Peter and John**, arrested after healing a lame man in the temple.
- **Acts 4:13**, uneducated, but they perceived that they had been with Jesus
- When we are followers of Christ, it will become evident to others

Examples of different

- **Enoch**, a man who walked with God
- **Genesis 5:21-24**, God took him
- **Hebrews 11:5, Jude 14-15** – a preacher of righteousness
- We do not see more different than God taking one so that He does not see death

Examples of different

- **Noah**, built the ark
- **Genesis 6:8-9**, He found grace in the eyes of the LORD. He also walked with God, perfect in his generation.
- **Hebrews 11:7, 2 Peter 2:5** – he saved only 8 souls
- Different means doing what is right even when the rest of the world does not

Examples of different

- **Joshua and Caleb**
- **Numbers 14:6-9**, while the rest of the congregation feared, complained and criticized, they were ready to trust God to lead them

Examples of different

- **David**, as he confronted Goliath
- **1 Samuel 17:4**, Goliath was more than 9 feet tall, and blasphemed YHWH and the army of Israel
- **1 Samuel 17:50**, with just a rock and sling, David takes down this giant.
- David's stand motivated the people to fight and prevail

Examples of different

- **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness
- **Matthew 3:2ff**, he preached a message of repentance.
- **Mark 6:16-29**, shortly thereafter he was imprisoned, and eventually beheaded
- We need to be different, even if the cost is unpleasant

Examples of different

- **Paul**, always stood for what is right
- **Philippians 3:4-8**, consider what he gave up for Christ
- **2 Corinthians 11:22-28**, consider all that he endured, and yet he maintained a godly attitude
- We need to be different, even if it costs us everything in this life

What does different look like?

- **It doesn't mean we always stand out just to be different**
- We are to live with proper decorum in society. We do our best to just live our lives.
- BUT the differences will come naturally if we are doing what is right

What does different look like?

- **It doesn't mean we are the only one**
- We are a family that cares and is to be there
- Elijah, there were 7000 (**1 Kings 19:18**) who had not bowed the knee to Baal
- The prophets constantly spoke of others who were faithful
- There were 3000 on the day of Pentecost

What does different look like?

- **We don't talk like the world anymore**
- **Matthew 12:34-37**, our speech reveals our heart
- **James 3:1-12**, the power of the tongue for good or bad
- **Matthew 26:73**, does our speech betray us?

What does different look like?

- **We don't act like the world anymore**
- **John 17:11, 14-16**, in the world, but not OF the world
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, such were some of you! (**Galatians 5:19-21**)

What does different look like?

- **Seen in the way we dress (and don't dress)**
- **1 Timothy 2:8-10**, modest apparel, professing godliness
- Modest means what is becoming or proper. Modern dress is often immoral and/or materialistic.
- Consider undue attention
- Consider a simple lifestyle

What does different look like?

- **We live lives of holiness**
- **1 Peter 1:13-16**, be holy as He is holy, “not conforming yourselves to the former lusts”

What does different look like?

- **We live with integrity**
- **2 Peter 1:5, Philippians 4:8**, these are the types of things we meditate upon.

What does different look like?

- We do not love the world or the things in the world
- **1 John 2:15-17**, rather, we do the will of God

What does different look like?

- **We walk by faith, not by sight**
- **2 Corinthians 5:7**, in all we do, we show trust in Him and His ways

What does different look like?

- **We think differently**
- **Philippians 2:3-4**, with lowliness of mind
- **2 Corinthians 10:5**, bringing every thought into captivity to obedience

What does different look like?

- Seen in how we treat others, including our enemies
- **Matthew 5:43-44**, we love and pray for our enemies
- **Romans 12:18-21**, we leave the judging in God's hands

What does different look like?

- **We defend our faith**
- **1 Peter 3:15**, always ready to give a defense
- **We openly confess Him**
- **Matthew 10:32-33, Mark 8:38** we must not be ashamed of Him

What does different look like?

- In summary, we seek His kingdom first
- **Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:1-2.** It is where our mind and treasure is (**Matthew 6:19-21**)

Concluding thought

- The gospel changes people. It is WHY we are different.
- When the world sees our transformed lives, who knows where that might lead?



**How different
am I?**



Let us pray!