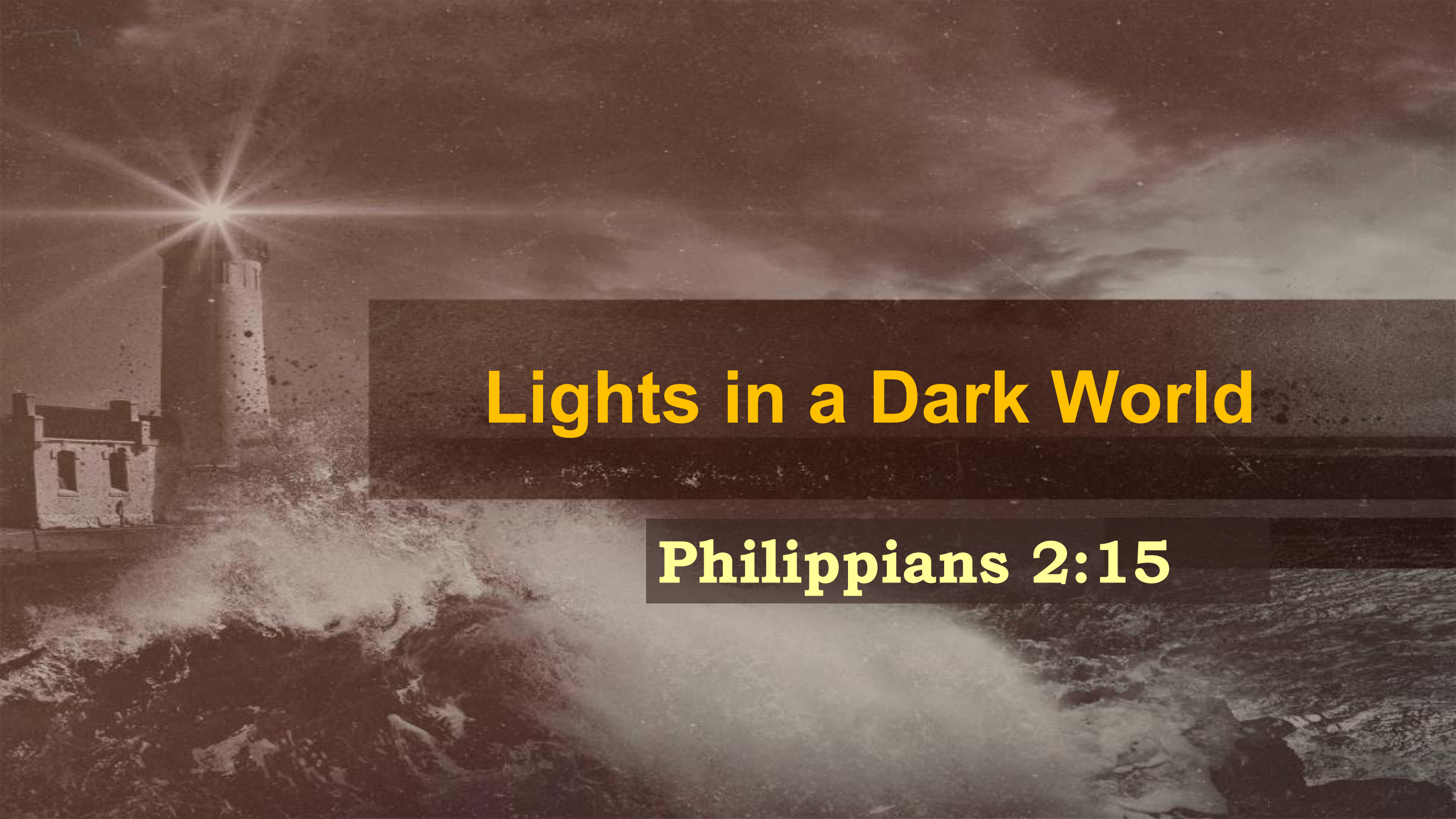




Lights in a Dark World

Philippians 2:15



How to Let Your Light Shine



**Be holy in all your
conduct**

What is holiness?

- The word is associated with purity and being set apart. Dedicated to God as distinct from the world.
- You live like you belong to God.
- In the NT, “holy”, “saint” and “sanctify” are all based on same root word.

What is holiness?

- **Holiness begins with God!**
- The quality of God that sets Him utterly apart from the world, especially in terms of purity and sanctity. (Dictionary Bible Themes)
- **1 Peter 1:13-16**
From **Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:1-2**

What is holiness?

- Holiness is associated with reverence and godliness
- Our desire to be in God's presence calls for holiness - **Psalm 15:1-5, 24:3-4, etc.**

What is holiness?

- Holiness under the Old Law
- Consider the Levitical priesthood. While we are not under the Old Law, we can learn from it. **Romans 15:4**
- Even prior to the LOM, with promises to patriarchs, it was clear that God intended to create for Himself a holy nation - pure and sanctified, based on HIS standard

What is holiness?

- Holiness under the Old Law
- Moses at the burning bush
Exodus 3:4-6, what made that ground “holy ground”? It was the presence of God!
- At Mount Sinai
- **Exodus 19:6** - a kingdom of priests and a holy nation
- **Exodus 19:10-12, 14, 22** - instructions at Mt. Sinai
- Then God spoke to them - **Exodus 20:1ff**

What is holiness?

- Holiness under the Old Law
- The book of Leviticus
- While governing the priesthood, it also gave laws to keep Israel pure and sanctified (separated) - sacrifices, laws of purity - moral and civil, cleanliness, general laws, etc.
- Jewish children were FIRST taught Leviticus in the synagogue.

What is holiness?

- Holiness under the Old Law
- The book of Leviticus
- The priesthood was about purity
- **Leviticus 10:1-3** - why were Nadab and Abihu burned to death?
They did not treat their sacrifice with holiness

The tabernacle and holiness

- The tabernacle was where God met with His people
- Consecrated and built to an exact pattern
- Consisted of two chambers – **Hebrews 9:1-3**
(Exodus 26:33)
the second, “the holiest of all” or “holy of holies”
- Everything about the tabernacle was based on holiness – and a TYPE of what was to come
(Hebrews 9:6)

Holiness and our influence

- We are called to be holy!
- **1 Peter 1:13-16** - even as God is holy
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7**, this is the will of God, your sanctification... God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness

Holiness and our influence

- We are called to be holy!
- **Hebrews 12:14**, *Pursue peace with all people and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord*
- **Romans 12:1-2**, present your bodies a living sacrifice... holy, acceptable

Holiness and our influence

- When we are holy, it will be reflected as we let our lights shine
- **Philippians 2:15**
- **Matthew 5:16**, that God may be glorified
- **1 Peter 4:3-4**, people will (should) see that we are different

Holiness and our influence

- When we are holy, it will be seen in every area of our lives?
- Social media - What am I sharing?
- Should I go to that dance? Is being popular more important than pleasing God?
- Do I really need to be drinking, even socially? Does it really show my holiness?
- Is what I am wearing really modest?

Holiness and our influence

- When we are holy, it will be seen in every area of our lives?
- What am I watching on the internet and television. Does it promote holiness?
- Does the relationship I am in reflect holiness? Does God accept it?
(**1 Corinthians 6:15-20**)
- Should I really be gambling? Even the lottery?

Holiness and our influence

- When we are holy, it will be seen in every area of our lives?
- Will I seek fellowship with those who are walking in sin or teaching error? (**Ephesians 5:11, 2 John 9-11**)

If I want to shine His
light,
I need to be holy!





Shining our Lights

Serving Others

What does it mean to serve?

- Holiness is about you getting right with God.
- But what about others? One of the best ways we can let our light shine is through service.

What does it mean to serve?

- Jesus, the ultimate example of service
- **Matthew 20:28, Luke 22:27** – He came to serve and give His life a ransom
- **Philippians 2:5-8** – He took the form of a bondservant
- **John 13:1-15**, the ultimate example

What does it mean to serve?

- Jesus, taught the importance of service
Matthew 25:31-46 – judgment is based upon service
Mark 9:41 – even a cup of cold water
Luke 10:29-37, the Good Samaritan

What does it mean to serve?

- We are called to serve
- **Titus 2:14** - zealous for good works
- **James 1:27** - pure and undefiled religion...
- **Galatians 5:13** - through love serve one another

Shining our lights as we serve

- It makes our faith real
- We show others that we care about God and His will.

James 2:18, we show our faith BY our works

Others know what a Christian is supposed to act like - **1 Peter 2:11-12**

Shining our lights as we serve

- It makes our faith practical
We show others that we care about THEM and others
James 2:14-16, we need to show our faith by our works
- It can cause others to glorify God
Matthew 5:13-16 – when we let our light so shine, others glorify God

Shining our lights as we serve

- It can lead to opportunities to teach
 - It is proven that the most effective way to reach others is PERSONAL interaction.
- When we serve others, it can open doors.
- “People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

Serving others

- Let your service be genuine
- While we are commanded to serve, it needs to come from within.
- People know when we are not genuine
- **1 Corinthians 13:3** - all the good works in the world are of no profit without love

Serving others

- Some ways we can serve others
- Help them
 - Yield - its not about you
 - Encourage
 - Stand up for them
 - Pray for them

Shining our Lights

Is your light
reflected as
you serve
others?

**We need a proper
attitude**

Attitudes

- Our actions need to come from proper attitudes (e.g. the heart – **Matthew 22:37-39**)
- While the word attitude is never used in scripture, it is clearly emphasized. Continually scripture emphasizes proper attitudes in our dealings with others
- It is where letting our light shine begins

Attitudes that turn people off

- You don't care – indifference
Bitterness and a sullen disposition
Being quick tempered and angry
Prejudice and closed mindedness
Constant criticism about everything
Being hateful in your dealings
Being prideful and selfish
Hypocrisy and dishonesty
People do NOT like being around those with such qualities.

The Pharisees – how NOT to act!

A study of the Pharisees shows the folly of bad attitudes

- Their hypocrisy (7 times in **Matthew 23**).
They were inconsistent!
They made prejudicial judgments
Self-righteous. arrogant and prideful
Corrupt and self-serving
- People knew who they were – and likely the majority were turned off.
- These are the same types of attitudes that turn men off today!

Attitudes that win people

Kindness – a universal language

Integrity

Self-control

Patience

Humility

Calmness

Optimism and positivity

Matthew 7:12 – the “golden rule”

Such qualities open doors and at the very least they do no harm to His cause

**What type of
attitudes do others
see in you?**



**What are you
doing to let your
light shine?**