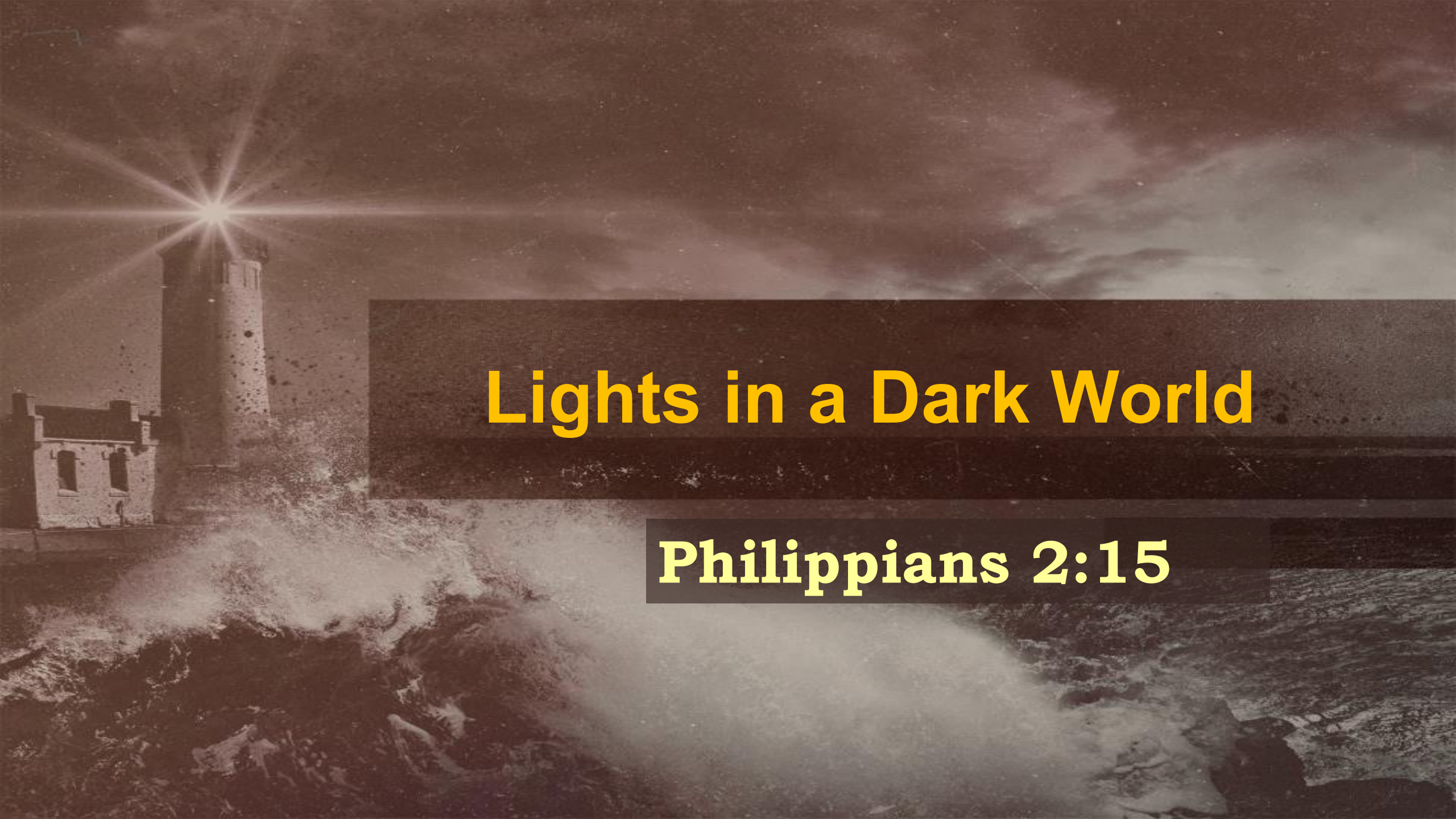




Lights in a Dark World

Philippians 2:15



**Why We Let
Our Light
Shine**

WHY do we live this way?

- We realize serving God is not always easy
- It often involves sacrifices, unpleasant tasks, rejection and persecutions, trials of all sorts.
- A life that requires determination, dedication and a willingness to be different - which the world doesn't understand (**1 Peter 4:2-4**)
- So why live this way?

WHY do we live this way?

**The world desperately needs more bright
lights**

- We are living in troubled times.
People are hurting and misinformed.
- People are confused and some are looking for
answers

WHY do we live this way?

The world desperately needs more bright lights

- We need to let our lights shine in hope of finding souls to win.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 – Paul did what he could to win as many as possible

2 Corinthians 5:10-11 – we will all stand before God in judgment. Are we persuading men?

WHY do we live this way?

The world desperately needs more bright lights

- We have to care!

This is what Christian love is about.

Matthew 22:39, loving your neighbor as yourself (see also **Matt. 19:19**, **Romans 13:9**, **Galatians 5:14**, **James 2:8**)

Matthew 7:12, the “golden rule”

WHY do we live this way?

The world desperately needs more bright lights

- As we live our lives, what are we doing to make the gospel as appealing as possible?
Are we living holy lives, serving others with a godly disposition?

WHY do we live this way?

This is the only way to make this world a better place

- How much better would this world be if everyone followed God's standard?
- (But they will not because that would mean acknowledging the source of that standard)
- But that should not stop us from trying!

WHY do we live this way?

This is the only way to make this world a better place

- We let our lights shine, even in this dark world
(**Philippians 2:15**)
- We even love our enemies –
Matthew 5:44-46, Romans 12:17-21
- Shining lights can cause others to glorify God –
Matthew 5:14-16

WHY do we live this way?

This is the only way to make this world a better place

- IF we are going to make this world a better place, it will NOT be at the ballot box, in the court room, corporate headquarters, or in our schools.
It is about each of us, being what we ought to be in our neighborhoods.

WHY do we live this way?

This is the only way to make this world a better place

- The ONLY way to truly change a society is to change hearts – one soul at a time.
- **Your goal is to be concerned about the one next to you!**
Cf. **Luke 10:36-37** – the Good Samaritan

WHY do we live this way?

- It is about saving ourselves

- God demands genuine obedience.
He expects us to do what we can do.
- **Romans 2:7**, eternal life awaits those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor and immortality.
- **Matthew 28:18-20**,
Mark 16:15-16 – Does this apply to us at all?
(Cf. **Acts 8:4**, **2 Timothy 2:2**, **Colossians 1:23**)

WHY do we live this way?

- It is about saving ourselves

- God demands genuine obedience.
He expects us to do what we can do.
- **James 4:19**, is letting our light shine “doing good”?
- **Galatians 6:10**, opportunity to do good
Matthew 10:32-33, are we ashamed of Him?
- We are a race for eternity – DO NOT QUIT!
Hebrews 12:1-2,
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

WHY do we live this way?

Because it is worth it!

- Consider the joy when you help win someone to Christ.
- Paul saw those he taught as his children –
1 Corinthians 4:14;
Philippians 1:3-4 – brethren brought him joy
- John – **3 John 4**
- He was willing to “spend and be spent” for them
2 Corinthians 12:15

WHY do we live this way?

Because it is worth it!

- Consider how much better off you will be.
- The godly life is a good life – not always easy or free of troubles, but it grants peace of mind and hope.

Philippians 4:6-7, Galatians 5:22-23 –

“against such there is no law”

WHY do we live this way?

Because it is worth it!

- Consider your eternal reward
- Paul realized this – **Philippians 3:12-14, 2 Timothy 4:6-8**
- Isn't this our ultimate goal?
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1, Romans 8:18
- **This is why we do what we do!**

WHY do we live this way?

Because it is worth it

We desire a home in heaven

- “If you miss heaven, you have missed all there is”
- Jesus said it this way,
Matthew 16:26, *What profit is it to a man...?*

WHY do we live this way?

Consider Heaven The realm of light

- Jesus is found in that light –
John 8:12, 9:5, 12:35-36
- John introduced Him as the light
John 1:4, 9, 3:19-21
- The glory of God – **1 John 1:5**, (Mt. Sinai, Mt. of Transfiguration) **2 Corinthians 4:6**

WHY do we live this way?

Heaven – the realm of light

- Light in heaven

Revelation 21:22-27, 22:3-5

- **Revelation 21:9-11** – the bride of Christ, had the glory of God (**cf. 21:2-3**)
- The light we are shining originated in heaven, and will continue to shine brightly when we get there

WHY do we live this way?

Heaven – a different place

- A place of rest – we work busily serving the Lord and keep our light shining

In heaven, we find rest

2 Thessalonians 1:7

Revelation 14:13

WHY do we live this way?

Heaven – a different place

- A place where there will be no persecutions, sorrows or sickness – nothing evil will be there

Revelation 21:4, 27

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

WHY do we live this way?

Heaven – a different place

- A place of reward for the faithful
- All the sacrifices we make, troubles we face and endure, will be as nothing in heaven
- We will be in the presence of God

Revelation 22:3

1 Thessalonians 4:17

- A place where the Godly will reside –

Hebrews 11:13-16, 12:22-23,

2 Timothy 4:8

WHY do we live this way?

Heaven – do we desire to take as many with us
as possible?

- All will appear for judgment

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

- Shining our light in this dark world prepares us for that home and hopefully will help us influence others so they can spend eternity there as well.

**How brightly is my
light shining?**