

LIVING IN A SINFUL WORLD
THE BELIEVER'S DUTY-PT 2
PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

Introduction

We know that this is a **CROOKED** and **PERVERSE NATION** and **WORLD** that we are living in! That which happens on a daily basis proves this out! **CHRIST** has called us who are saved to live a certain way despite how evil things get around us!

Last week we began looking at **THE BELIEVER'S DUTY. WE SAW: WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING IN US!** Has **GOD** worked **HIS SALVATION** in your heart? If **GOD** has worked **HIS SALVATION** in your heart, are you **WORKING IT OUT?** **We Have Been Predestined To Be Conformed To The Image Of Christ!** **We Have Been Commanded To Put Off The Old Man And To Put On The New Man!** **We Have Been Instructed To Work Out Our Salvation With Fear And Trembling!** **WE ALSO SAW:**

WE HAVE A DUTY TO WATCH OUR CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY!
We Are To Do All Things Without Murmurings!
We Are To Do All Things Without Disputings!
We Are To Be Blameless!
We Are To Be Harmless!
We Are To Be The Sons Of GOD Without Rebuke!
We Are To Shine As Lights In The World!

There are some additional **DUTIES** we have as being **GOD'S CHILDREN**, lets look at them:

III. WE HAVE A DUTY TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION! (Vs 16)

The two words "***Holding forth***" were translated from words that convey the idea that the Christian will make "***THE WORD OF LIFE***" continuously available to unbelievers; *i.e., he will hold out the light of the GOSPEL, offering it to the unbeliever.*

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The **GOSPEL** is called "***THE WORD OF LIFE***" because it reveals and offers to us **ETERNAL LIFE** through **JESUS CHRIST. LIFE** and **IMMORTALITY** are brought to light by the **GOSPEL.**

It is our duty not only to **HOLD FAST**, but to **HOLD FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE!** We are to not only to **HOLD IT FAST** for our own benefit, but we are to **HOLD IT FORTH** for others' benefit! We are to **HOLD IT FORTH** just as one would **HOLD FORTH** a torch to **LIGHT THE WAY** for someone!

We are to **HOLD IT FORTH** just as a lighthouse continually shines to protect ships from crashing into the shoreline! We are to **HOLD FORTH** the **LIGHT** of the **GOSPEL** to reveal the dangers which stand ready to destroy the souls of men. We are to **LIGHT THE WAY** for the souls of men who are tossed on life's sea to be able to make it safely to the shore!

This **DUTY** rests on us as **BELIEVERS!** Christ said in ***Matthew 5:14***—"Ye are the light of the world. . ." and in ***Matthew 5:16***—"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
We cannot escape from this obligation.

A. We Are Duty Bound To Do This!

- 1. We Are Duty Bound Because We Are Commanded To Do It!** On more than one occasion Christ commanded it! ***Mark 16:15***—"...Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."
- 2. We Are Duty Bound Because We Are Called To Do It!** ***Isaiah 43:10-11***—"10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour."

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Acts 1:8— “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

3. **We Are Duty Bound Because We Are Debtors To Do It! Romans 1:14-16—***“14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. 15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

4. **We Are Duty Bound Because We Are Kept Here For That Purpose!** If it were not so, we would have been ushered into heaven the moment we were saved!
*Ephesians 2:8-10—**“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

What is a *good work*? It is a work (any work!) that **CHRIST** is involved in!

*Luke 19:10—**“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:18—**“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

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20Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”
(Cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:4)

5. **We Are Duty Bound Because There Are No Others To Do It!**
The frivolous ones will not warn the fools, nor will the proud warn the proud, nor the scoffer the scoffer.

The thoughtless and the vain will not go and tell others that there is a **GOD** and a **SAVIOUR**; nor will the wicked warn the wicked, and tell them that they are on their way to hell.

There are none who will do this but **BELIEVERS**; and, if we neglect it, sinners will go unwarned and unalarmed down to death and hell! This duty rests on every **BELIEVER**!

There is not one **BELIEVER** who is exempt from this obligation! And there is not one **BELIEVER** who cannot do something in this work!

B. How Then Are We To Do It?

1. We Are To Do It By Our Example!

Can others see **CHRIST** in us? If you were the only **BIBLE** that folks read, what would they know of **GOD** and of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**?

Every one who names the name of **CHRIST** is to **HOLD FORTH** the living **WORD** by our example! We are either pointing men to **CHRIST** by a **good testimony** or we are giving them a poor excuse to live their lives away from **GOD** by a poor testimony!

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So, how is your **TESTIMONY** as a **BELIEVER**? Is it a **TESTIMONY** that **CHRIST** is pleased with?

What does your involvement in the things of this world and/or the lack of involvement in the things of **GOD** say about you as a **BELIEVER**?

- a. What does your Church attendance say about it?
- b. What do your leisure activities say about it?
- c. What does your attitude and actions at work, in school, in the home and in the market place say about it?
- d. What does your checkbook and your spending habits say about it?
- e. What do the places where you go and the things you do say about it?
- f. What do the things you watch, the things you listen to, and the things you read say about it?
- g. What does your conversation—the things you talk about—say about it?

We Are To Do It By Our Example!

2. We Are To Do It By Our Conversation!

CHRIST intends for our **evangelism** to be more than just a **lifestyle evangelism!**

Each of us has some influence over the minds and hearts of others and we are obligated to use that influence in **HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE.**

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- a. **We must share our FAITH with others!**
Telling others what **CHRIST** has done for us and what **HE** can do for them!

Every **BELIEVER** ought to know how to lead a soul to saving faith in **CHRIST!**

- b. **We must earnestly contend for the FAITH!**
Jude 3
That includes taking a stand for the **TRUTH** and right—even in the midst of crookedness and perverseness around us!

By Example...By Our Conversation...

3. We Are To Do It By Supporting World-wide MISSIONS!

Do you give to Faith-Promise Missions? It takes money to get God's work done!

IV. WE HAVE A DUTY TO LIVE IN THE JOY OF CHRIST!
(Vs 16-18; 3:1; 4:4)

PHILIPPIANS is known as the book of **JOY** and **REJOICING.** Understand that **TRUE JOY...REAL JOY...LASTING JOY** comes from two things:

A. Joy Comes From Knowing Christ!

Now I want you to understand that people who are without **CHRIST** in their lives can experience joy—I'm not saying they can't—but it is only a temporary joy, a fleeting joy, a joy in some circumstance.

There can be joy in some of the temporal circumstances of life. But as circumstances change, the joy can quickly depart.

For example, even a wicked person can experience joy in

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coming into a fortune!

e.g. *By winning a sweepstakes, winning the lottery,
receiving a large inheritance*

But that joy can quickly pass as circumstances change!

e.g. *To be stricken with a sudden illness and only have hours
to live or to have that fortune stolen in a moment!*

But the **JOY** that comes from knowing **CHRIST** should be an **UNCHANGING JOY** because we have:

1. **An Unchanging Saviour.**

Hebrews 13:8—“*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and
to day, and for ever.*”

2. **An Unchanging Salvation.**

It is described in various Scripture passages as
“*everlasting,*” “*eternal.*”

Hebrews 13:5-6—“*. . . for he hath said, I will never
leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6So that we may boldly
say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what
man shall do unto me.*”

I say that the **JOY** that comes from knowing **CHRIST**
“**should be**” an **unchanging joy**. But sadly, many are not
walking in the **JOY** that is available to them. It is possible to
own a treasure without ever taking possession of it or without
living in the benefit of it!

*Exp— If someone were to give me a checkbook this evening and
tell me that I could write **any** and **as many** checks that I wanted
to and that they would all be covered. What good would that
do me if I never wrote a check? I could not take possession of
anything that was in that bank account unless I wrote a check!*

If we focus on our circumstances, our **JOY**, even as
BELIEVERS, will be fleeting, but if we focus on our

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CHRIST our **JOY** can be full and continual despite the
circumstances of life that we face!

Joy Comes From Knowing Christ!

B. Joy Comes From Living For Christ!

JESUS said in *John 10:10*—“*. . . I am come that they might
have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*”

The **ABUNDANT LIFE** that **CHRIST** speaks of is a **LIFE
OF JOY** and comes from **ABIDING IN CHRIST!**

Again, this world cannot know this joy because what they are
living for is temporal—it rusts, it wears out, it corrupts, it can be
taken away— and whatever they do have at the end of their life
they leave it all behind! Where is the joy in that? It is only
temporary! It lasts only as long as whatever brings the joy
lasts.

But, the **JOY** that comes from knowing **CHRIST** and living
for **CHRIST** is a life that brings blessings both now and
forever!

The result of the **CHRIST** life does not rust out, or wear out, or
corrupt in any way. It cannot be taken away from us.
Furthermore, it is laid up in heaven for us, so when we die we
go to our reward!

1 Peter 1:3-4—“*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath
begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead, 4To an inheritance incorruptible,
and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for
you.*”

How sad it is that so many **BELIEVERS** have traded a life of
JOY that comes from serving **CHRIST**, for a life of serving

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self! It is no wonder that they have no **JOY!**

JESUS said in *Mark 8:35*—“*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*”

If you are a **BELIEVER** and you have no **JOY**, then you have probably lost your focus on **CHRIST** and have put your focus on your circumstances!

The absence of **JOY** will bring about a cynical and critical nature that leads to complaining and arguing and a life that winds up being miserable both for you and those who have to be around you.

So, **BELIEVERS** let's understand that our lives are on public display each and every day! How we live our lives, how we respond and react to the many things that happen in our lives is very important because we are on public display! The people of this world are looking at us!

Conclusion

So, how are we as **BELIEVERS** to live in the midst of a **CROOKED** and **PERVERSE NATION** and **WORLD?**

WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING IN US.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO WATCH OUR CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO LIVE IN THE JOY OF CHRIST!

(These duties are really privileges!)