



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 2:14-15

NC0160

TITLE: Bring the Light

I love people-watching at airports. You learn a lot about people by watching them walk by. But one thing I can pick up quickly is where a person is from by the emblems and logos on their hats, shirts, and even their pants. When I travel, I always carry a hat - 6am flights, and my hair don't mix, so I throw on a hat. Often, it's a Nebraska hat. Trust me, unless you're from Nebraska, you're not wearing one of these. But it clearly tells you about me.

But how can people know we're Christian? It's not by our clothes or stickers. It's based on how we live. This is what Paul said on the matter:

Do everything without complaining and arguing,¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. (Philippians 2:14-15, NLT)

Christian living is a consistent theme in Paul's writings. In other words, it really matters. It shows people we are authentically saved. It shows we view God rightly. But our lives point people directly to Christ. At least, they should.

That's why Paul says, "Do everything without complaining and arguing." When I tell my kids it's chore time, guess what? They grumble. That's really what Paul meant - a loud, guttural moan and complaining for all to hear. But that groaning will lead to arguing. It starts with complaining, but leads to pushing back and giving reasons why not to do something.

But when we do this, we aren't being selfless. We aren't servants. We are acting like the unsaved world. And when we do that, it gives people a reason to say, "See, you're no different than anyone else." I don't know about you, but I do not want to hear those words about me.

Paul says, a better example – a better representation of that unity we are to have - is to live lives that are blameless and clean. We are living out the reality of who we are in Christ: new creations.

The world is full of darkness. It's filled with perverse people who are far from God. But when we live life as God prescribes, it brings light to the darkness that points them right up to Christ. The issue with people is an issue of the heart. If we want real change in our culture, it begins with Christ.

So here's my challenge for you today: let your light shine. How can you show the difference Christ is making in your life? Who is that person who is far from God who needs to see and hear Christ? Find that person and bring them to light.

When we bring the light to the world, God is glorified, people are saved. Then they can win the day.