

The Priority of a Right Spirit

In Acts 16:25, we see the evidence of a right spirit during times of severe difficulty.

Acts 16:25 KJV 1900

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

It is in the darkest hour that we have the opportunity to shine

Philippians 2:14-16

Paul begins to give instruction here for the church to have a right spirit.

The word *do* is translated from the Greek word *poieo* which means “to act out or to execute.” The command to do all things without murmurings and disputings is in the imperative mood. It is a command. We are told to do all things without complaining.

The word *murmurings* means “muttering, whispering, a secret debate, a secret displeasure not openly avowed, or talking behind the back.”

The word *disputings* is translated from the Greek word *dialogismos* which means “a deliberating, questioning about what is true, hesitation, doubting, or disputing.” It carries the sense of being quick to argue with others including leadership.

As he encouraged this church, He was telling them that there should be a priority of a right spirit in every Christian’s life. Because living with the right spirit has three specific results:

I. Personal Testimony

Philippians 2:15a

A. Blameless

The word *blameless* is translated from the Greek word *amempto* which means “deserving no censure, free from defect.”

2 Timothy 2:24–25 KJV 1900

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

B. Harmless

The word *harmless* is translated from the Greek word *akeraios* which means “unmixed, without a mixture of evil, or free from guile.”

Philippians 1:10 KJV 1900

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

2 Corinthians 1:12 KJV 1900

For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

II. Powerful Witness

Philippians 2:15b-16a

A. Witness of the Light

Philippians 2:15b

A dark world

The word *perverse* is translated from the Greek word *diastrepho* which means “to distort, turn aside from the right path, to pervert, to corrupt.”

A shining light

Jesus *is* the light that the world needs!

Malachi 4:2 KJV 1900

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise With healing in his wings; And ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

John 9:4–5 KJV 1900

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

The phrase *as lights* is a metaphor comparing how we are to be the light in a darkened world when Jesus is not present.

Matthew 5:14–16 KJV 1900

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew Henry states, “When God raises up a good man in any place, he sets up a light in that place.”

B. Witness of the World

Philippians 2:16a

We show the light of Christ by the Word of God—that is what the Holy Spirit uses.

The Phrase *holding forth* is translated from the Greek word *epecho* which means “to stretch out or hold out for others to see.” This is speaking about more than being faithful to the truth.

III. Pastoral Hope

Philippians 2:16b

A. Rejoicing in the Race

Philippians 3:14 KJV 1900

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 4:7–8 KJV 1900

I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 KJV 1900

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

For ye are our glory and joy.

B. Rejoicing in Labor

1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV 1900

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:9–10 KJV 1900

Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

Conclusion

The Right spirit is a shining light of what the gospel does in the life of a believer. I urge you to let your light shine for the Lord.

If you are not a Christian, the most important thing you can do tonight is ask Christ to save you. I recognize that as Christians, we are not always the most stunning example of Christ. The reality is that we are Christians, but we are still humans. We didn't magically become perfect. I urge you to see past some of those that have misled you in the past and put your faith in Christ. I urge you to trust in the reality of the Son of God, Jesus Christ for there is no other one that offers you salvation.

Acts 4:12 KJV 1900

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.