



## WEEK 2 - BRIGHT LIGHTS IN A DARK WORLD

### OVERVIEW

Paul's letter to the Philippians gains so much more meaning when understood in the context of Paul's first visit to the city. In that story, we see the Philippian church as deeply hospitable, generous, and incredibly diverse. Knowing, based on Paul's other letters, how often the Philippians continued to support him as he did ministry elsewhere, it is no surprise Paul is "overjoyed" whenever he thinks about them. It also makes sense why Paul is so fervent for the church in Philippi to work hard to "shine like bright lights" in a very dark world and allow their characters to be continuously shaped by Christ.

Grace Church was started with a commitment to jump in wherever the Holy Spirit was moving. As we continue to listen for the voice of God in this new generation and pool our resources to invest in what's to come, let's join the Philippians in "working hard to show the results of our salvation" so that the "ones" God has laid on our heart can come to know the love of Jesus as we have. The future is bright for our spiritual family!

**For Reference:** Sermons from both February 16 and March 2, 2025 will be the foundation of this message.

*Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

**Philippians 2:12-13**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to "breathe the air of new creation" or "walk on holy ground"? Have you experienced this in real life?
2. Read [Philippians 2:1-5](#). What was the attitude that Christ Jesus had?
3. Read [Philippians 2:12-18](#).
  - a. Describe what Paul means in [verse 12](#), when he says to *work hard to show the results of your salvation (with fear and trembling, as Barry translated the Greek)*.
  - b. How can we live *clean, innocent lives and shine like bright lights (verse 15)*?
  - c. What is God's mission according to [Isaiah 42:16 \(NRSV\)](#)?
4. How does God bring light into the world? (See [Matthew 5:14](#).)
5. How does it feel to know that because Jesus is within you, *you* are the light in the darkness? (See also [Philippians 2:1](#) and [Philippians 1:6](#).)
6. How can you shine brightly into the life of your "one"?