

Monday

## Shine As Lights In the World

**Today's Scripture** Philippians 2

We know from history and the whole of scripture that the church in Philippi was under heavy persecution, just like Paul was when he wrote the book from jail in Rome! Most Bible commentaries and scholars teach that when Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians that he had four reasons for writing. Two of those motives were to encourage perseverance in the church during the persecution they were under, and to encourage unity in the church. That's the theme which is on display in Philippians 2. While it is very clear that Paul wanted the church to accomplish both of those things, I think it's a mistake to separate the two as if they are unrelated.

The Philippians lived in a time where it was extremely difficult to be a Christian, and they needed one another if they were going to both make it through life faithfully and have a positive impact on a lost and dying world. Paul understood that perfectly! Take time today to read what he writes about Christian unity in Philippians 2:1-14 as leading into what he says in v.15-16: *“that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”*

Today, just like in Paul's day, the world desperately needs faithful Christians shining light into the darkness. Only together can we do those things effectively! The church is vital and necessary for Christians to make it through a difficult life, but it's also vital and necessary as God's chosen vehicle for sharing the light of the gospel. The church can accomplish nothing for the kingdom unless it is united in Christ. Take time today and this week to pray for the congregation where you attend, and make a list of actions you should take to help build unity among the brethren.

**Today, I will...**Focus on helping bring unity to the church, understanding that the salvation of many depends on it!