

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE

Philippians 2:12-18

- **Most people don't understand their life purpose, but the Lord wants to help us all MAKE LIFE COUNT.**
- *"Leave your impoverished confusion and live! Walk up the street to a life with meaning."* (Proverbs 9:6)
- **To live a purposeful, meaningful life, we must be willing to live differently than many people throughout the world (Philippians 2:12-18).**
- ***What does it take to live a godly, different kind of life?***

To Live A Different Kind Of Life We Must:

WORK ON OUR SALVATION

- *"Work hard to show the results of your salvation . . ."* (Philippians 2:12)
- **We experience God's salvation as we recognize our need for God, repent of our sins, place our faith in Jesus, and surrender control of our lives to Him.**
- ***When and where did I begin a relationship with Jesus Christ?***
- **We experienced salvation not because of how we lived or what we'd done, but because of God's grace in response to our faith in Jesus.**
- *"God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."* (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **We don't "work for" our salvation, but we are to work on getting the most out of our salvation.**
- **We "work on our salvation" as we focus on *Getting Closer To The Lord*.**
    - Jesus - *"Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. . . . you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me."* (John 15:4)
    - **We "work on" our salvation as we faithfully engage in: 1) praying (Matthew 6:9-13), 2) reading God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15), 3)**

worshiping the Lord (Hebrews 10:22-25), and 4) fellowshipping with others (Acts 2:42, 46-47).

- **We "work on our salvation" as we focus on *Obeying God*.**
  - *"Work hard to show the results of your salvation, <u>obeying God with deep reverence and fear</u>."* (Philippians 2:12)
  - **When we truly love and revere the Lord we will want to obey Him.**
  - Jesus - *"If you love Me, obey My commandments."* (John 14:15)
- **We "work on our salvation" as we focus on *Depending on God.***
  - *"For God is working in you . . ."* (Philippians 2:13)
  - **The Christian life is not a self-help, do-it-yourself, independent effort (Ephesians 3:20).**
  - **The same Holy Spirit that directed and empowered Jesus is available to guide, empower and help us (Luke 4:1, 14).**
- **We "work on our salvation" as we focus on *Pleasing God*.**
  - *"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. "* (Philippians 2:13)
  - **The purpose of our life is to find and fulfill God's will.**
  - *"Give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. . . . This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* (Romans 12:1-2)

To Live A Different Kind Of Life We Must:

SHINE OUT AS <u>LIGHTS</u> IN A DARKENED WORLD

- *"Do everything without complaining and arguing, 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)
- **To be "lights" in a darkened world we have to focus on *Living Right*.**
  - *"Do everything without complaining and arguing . . ."* (Philippians 2:14)
  - **God has a problem with complaining (1 Corinthians 10:10) and arguing (Ephesians 4:25-32).**
  - *"Live clean, innocent lives as children of God . . . "* (Philippians 2:15)
  - **We are to live godly and blameless lives.**
  - *"Once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true."* (Ephesians 5:8-9)
- **To be "lights" in a darkened world we have to focus on *Shining Bright*.**
  - *"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)

- **Darkness is overcome when light is shared.**
- **Direction is offered when light is shared.**
- Jesus - *"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father."* (Matthew 5:16)

To Live A Different Kind Of Life We Must:

HOLD FIRMLY TO THE <u>WORD</u> OF LIFE

- *"Hold firmly to the word of life . . ."* (Philippians 2:16)
- **Jesus is the "word of life" that the Apostle Paul was referring to.**
- *"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone."* (John 1:1-4)
- *"So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."* (John 1:14)
- **Jesus as the "word of life" brings us abundant life on earth (John 10:10) and eternal life in Heaven (John 3:16).**
- **To hold firmly to Jesus we have to daily *Connect With Him.***
  - **We experience the Lord's presence as we worship Him, pray to Him and read His Word.**
  - Jesus - *"Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me."* (John 15:4)
- **To hold firmly to Jesus we have to daily *Submit To Him*.**
  - Jesus - *"When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love . . ."* (John 15:10)
  - **We obey the Lord by: 1) prioritizing Him (Mark 12:30), 2) loving others (Mark 12:31), 3) serving others (Hebrews 6:10) and 4) living for Him (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9).**
  - *"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)

- ***What are some specific steps I need to take to "work on my salvation," "shine brightly" and "hold on to the Word of life"?***