Part #5 SHINING AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thess. 5:16-18, Phil. 4:6

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today's topic from Philippians: SHINING AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD.

1) Cooperating with God

a. Philippians 2:12 What faulty conclusion might you come to just reading this verse?
b. Compare the following inspired testimonies by the same author (the Apostle Paul): Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:23-24, 5:8.
c. How does Philippians 2:13 help us to understand the Apostle Paul's comment recorded in v.12?
d. Why is it vitally important for us to allow God to work in us according to His good pleasure?

2) Shining as lights in a dark world

a. Philippians 2:14 How is it possible to do all things without complaining and disputing?
b. Philippians 2:15 The Apostle Paul described the Philippian culture as a "crooked and perverse generation." How would a prophet of God describe our culture today?
c. Philippians 2:15-16 How does the work of God in us and through us cause us to shine as lights in this dark world? (see also John 8:12, Matthew 5:14-16)

3) A living sacrifice

a. Philippians 2:17-18 What does it mean to be poured out as a living sacrifice? (see also 2 Timothy 4:6)
b. Where is the Scriptures can we find an appeal to present our lives as living sacrifices to God? Romans 12:1-2
c. What counsel would you give to someone who says, "I'm afraid to surrender my life completely to God"?

4) Examples of shining lights

a. Timothy: Philippians 2:19-24 What words of affirmation did the Apostle Paul share about Timothy? (see also 2 Timothy 1:3-7, 2 Timothy 2:15-16)
b. Epaphroditus: Philippians 2:25-30 What can we learn about Epaphroditus from his name and the words of affirmation the Apostle Paul shared about him?
c. Shining lights today: Share a time you saw the light of Jesus shining brightly through a follower of Jesus.
d. Why is it important to offer of words affirmation and encouragement to fellow Christians when we see the light of Jesus shining through them?
e. Why is it dangerous to be constantly examining ourselves to see if the light of Jesus is shining brightly through us? Hebrews 12:1-2
f. What important lessons have you learned from our study today?