

Going Deeper With the Sermon January 21-22, 2012

Philippians 2:12-18 – ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without murmuring and arguing, ¹⁵so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. ¹⁶It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you— ¹⁸and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

Observation (what...?):

- Jack used images of a complaint choir and a complaint fast when talking about “murmuring and arguing” in v14. What are the benefits of not complaining in v15-16?
- How hard would it be for you to go 21 consecutive days without complaining?

Interpretation (why...?):

- We heard that v16 is really connected to v15 (we shine like stars *as* we hold fast to the word of life). Why do you think Paul connects “murmuring and arguing” with “shine like the stars” and “holding fast to the word of life?”
- Do your words reflect what’s in your heart? Or vice versa, does your heart reflect your words?

Application (how can I...?):

- Jack encouraged us to be lashed to the mast of the gospel so we can pass by the sirens of the world and start to shine like stars. In particular, we heard three main options:
 - Read Scripture daily
 - Pray in all situations
 - Be connected with the Christian community every day, not just Sundays
- How will you lash yourself to the mast of the gospel? How will you hold fast to the word of life?
- How can your heart (and your tongue) shine like the stars?