



'Back to Basics for Believers Series'

Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians

Message 10 – Lights in the World Philippians 2:12-16a

Paul charges his readers to shine as lights in the world. He continues in the vein of living in the light of the supreme example, the Lord Jesus Christ. Then the verses we considered last time are really an insight into Paul's mentality. Resulting from that he pointed to the purpose and the power of living in Christ. He speaks of:

1. Purpose - Ultimately, the purpose that God wants us to achieve is that we are living in a way that is increasingly Christlike, 'to be conformed to the image of His Son', Romans 8:29. The Lord is so gracious because He sees the potential in our lives, we see the dirt and the filth, and yet He sees beyond that. One of the wonderful things to know as a believer is that God has a plan for our lives (Eph. 2:10), and it is not some sort of mystic indiscernible end, but He wants to lead us and enable us to work it out for His glory. Yet, we are to be those who are committed to walking in His ways, and living in the light of this purpose, and for His glory. As Paul directs the Philippians, so he directs us, that in all of this we must look to Christ.

2. Power - God energises both the believers desires and actions. The phrasing that Paul uses here clearly shows that he is not focusing on the mere desires we may have, or the fluctuating emotional states we experience, but on the considered intent to fulfil a planned purpose. That being to live for His glory, and God's power enables His church making them willing to live godly lives (Ps. 110:3). Whilst the believer is responsible to work, it is the Lord who actually produces the good works and spiritual fruit in the life of the believer (John 15:5; 1 Cor. 12:6). This is accomplished because of the wonderful fact of the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 3:16,17). The power that works in us is the Holy Spirit, in fact the word 'worketh', is translated also into English as energy. It is God's divine energy that is working in us and through us!



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs