

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2:14-18

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“FAITH ON FIRE” – PART 2 **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHRISTIAN BURNS**

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Introduction to the Text; [Philippians 2:14-18](#)

Philippians 2:14-18

:14 Do all things without **complaining** and **disputing**, **15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, **among whom** you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. **:17** Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. **18** For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

FAITH ON FIRE

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHRISTIAN BURNS?

I will tell you – **THEY, WE, WILL BECOME AWESOME**
“IMPLEMENTS” OF GOD - FOR HIS PURPOSES!

Isaiah 43:7

Everyone who is **called** by My name, Whom I have **created** for My glory;
I have **formed** him, yes, I have **made** him.”

For what reason are you living for? What purpose is it that gets you out of bed in the morning? Oh, and answering “to make a living” or to “pay the bills” or “to exist” - - isn’t an answer.

It’s not until Jesus Christ is central in your life and living is there any real or lasting reason or purpose –

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

<http://image.slidesharecdn.com/how-to-be-a-huge-success-in-life-27750/95/how-to-be-a-huge-success-in-life-14-728.jpg?cb=1250143099>

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

What does it look like - to Glorify God?

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

FAITH ON FIRE CANNOT BE DENIED – ONLY NEGLECTED

The Abraham’s / The David’s / The Isaiah’s / The Paul’s...

Well known Scottish philosopher and historian of the 18th Century, David Hume, a self-proclaimed Deist, confessed to not believing in supernatural inspiration, nor divine revelation, nor Jesus Christ being the Son of God, nor the Bible, Yet he made himself to be an eyewitness to more than one of George Whitefield’s evangelistic outreaches. Hume, It has been reported, traveled some 20 miles on horseback just to hear Whitefield preach at one of his outdoor gatherings. There is an account that at about five o'clock in the morning, as David Hume was going down a street in London came around a corner and fell straightaway into the hands of a man heading in the opposite direction who, recognizing Hume said, **"Why, aren't you David Hume?"** **"Yes."** Hume replied, **"And where are you going at this early hour of the morning ?"** **"I'm going to hear Mr. George Whitefield preach,"** replied Hume. **"But You don't believe a word Whitefield preaches,"** said the man. **"No,"** Hume answered, **"but George Whitefield does!"**

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Peter, Paul and Mary –normal people just like us, yet they yielded their lives to God...

None of them perfect, but all of them serious about Drawing near to God, knowing God and being known by God.

But We Began With a Warning, An Exhortation That's More relevant Today than at any Other Time in History...

Verse 14

Do all things without **complaining** and **disputing**,

1 Thessalonians 5:19
Do not **quench** the Spirit.

quench sbe ÷ nnumi **sbennumi**, *sben'-noo-mee*; the picture this word paints is the snuffing out of a flame. We are to **avoid offending** the Holy Spirit. We are to resist speaking or acting in a way that **causes Him to recoil** from our lives

Luke 6:41-42

And why do you look (stair) at the speck (dust from a piece of straw) in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank (limb, branch) in your own eye? **42** Or how can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye," when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Attacking the residual things of this world - that were once native to us is required of every disciple like...
Complaining and Disputing...

Ephesians 4:25-30

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and (but) do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who

has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for (unto) the day of redemption.**

sealed sfragi ÷ zw **sphragizo**, *sfrag-id'-zo*; to stamp or emboss with a signet or private, personal mark of ownership. It carries the guarantee of security, preservation, completeness // security, preservation, completeness

Stamp or an Embossed Seal <http://s240.photobucket.com/user/mozzerb/media/parma-london-1851-seal-1.jpg.html>

Like when a **Stamp or an Embossed Seal** is Placed upon Something.

We know that the Christian is weak in and of himself, but the Christian learns that **Surrendering to the Ownership of Jesus Christ, is the very answer to Life itself - - Becoming Children of God**

Family could never happen by external effort or merit, it's not through status or place in this life or of this world !

#1 That object was **marked-out**

by the Authority, or The Realm, or by The Master – **by Possession.**

#2 The reason why the object was **marked-out**

by the Authority, or The Realm, or by The Master – **to serve His purpose.**

**This great act of God that - Marks Us Out and - Gives Purpose
Is all of His doing –**

Romans 8:29-30

For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** (for what purpose?) to be **conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn (preeminent) among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also **called**; whom He called, these He also **justified**; and whom He justified, these He also **glorified**.

All of This is at Work in You, Sealed, and now being sanctified today,
tomorrow, next week and until Jesus says you're done!

Verse 15

15 that you may **become** blameless and harmless, children of God –
without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,

FAITH ON FIRE

1.) **Is a faith that cannot be hidden** vs. 14-15

1a.) Is a faith prepared to be **burned** vs. 14

1b.) Is a faith prepared to be **consumed** vs. 15a

1c.) Is a faith prepared to be **seen** vs. 15b

FAITH ON FIRE

2.) **Is a faith that cannot be extinguished** vs. 16

Holding fast the word of life, **So** that I may rejoice in the day of Christ
that I have not **run** in vain or **labored** in vain

2a.) Because of Him who **calls us** vs. 16a

Holding fast the word of life,

Note This – This is written to all of us, every Christian.
It is God who has called us to be inseparably-united to His Word.

We are to Holding Fast This Word

This “Holding Fast” or better “Holding Forth”
or “Holding Up and Out from”
is an offering being lifted up and held out in worship by the worshipper.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as **workers together** with **Him** also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: *“In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”* Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

The invitation is to all Christians to unite in getting out the message of The Word of Life – The Gospel, That Jesus Christ came and died for your sins and mine – that the grave was powerless to hold Him who was God incarnate, He rose from the dead and He saves, rescues and delivers all those who will come to His salvation.

There is an urgency about “The Word of Life”

Paul’s argument suggests that it (the word of life) is like a torch set atop a hill sending a message or like a lighthouse set at the shore in the most visible location to warn and to guide others.

Genesis 1:3

And God **said**, Let there be light: and there was light.

Psalms 107:20

He sent His **word** and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

Psalms 119:105

Your **word** is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Matthew 7:24

“Therefore whoever hears **these sayings of Mine**, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

John 7:38

He who believes in Me, as **the Scripture** has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Hebrews 4:12

For the **word** of God is living and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword,

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

So What Do We Do About This ?

Colossians 3:10-16a

Put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. **:12** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. **14** But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. **15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

FAITH ON FIRE IS A FAITH THAT CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED

2b.) Because of Him who **keeps us**

vs. 16b

Holding fast the word of life,
So that I may rejoice **in the day of Christ**

Paul has the goal in sight. He stays focused on what matters.

We all need to remember this in life

The Day of Christ is Coming

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Therefore we make it our **aim** (target, goal), whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. **10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,** that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

So we ask ourselves the question,
How's my progress going at getting to that day?

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are **kept** by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 24

Now to Him who is able to **keep** you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to **keep** what I have committed to Him until that Day.

FAITH ON FIRE IS A FAITH THAT CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED

2c.) Because of Him who **uses us** vs. 16c

that I have not **run** in vain or **labored** in vain

Paul uses the language of the greek gymnasium.

The gymnasium was not only the place for physical training – the gym was also a place where the philosophers gathered and the poets and the heralds would announce and preach or propose new ideas.

No one wanted to “Make their presentation” and then have it fail. Paul wanted the Philippians to – cross the finish line of faith.

run *trecho*, *trekh'-o*; to run or walk in a hasty manner. To set out on a course that has no destination.

labored *kopiao*, *kop-ee-ah'-o*; to become fatigued. to work hard, to toil, to have become wearied – for a good and excellent result.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I

discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

FAITH ON FIRE IS A FAITH THAT CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED

I have always been impressed and convicted at this;

Impressed with...

John 8:12

"I am the light of the world.

- He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Convicted at...

Matthew 5:14

"You are the light of the world.

- A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

John 3:15-21a

Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have **eternal life**. **16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have **everlasting life**. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be **saved**. **18** "He who believes in Him **is not condemned**; but he who does not believe is condemned already, (but why?) because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And this is the condemnation, that the **light** has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than **light**, because their deeds were evil. **20** For everyone practicing evil hates the **light** and does not come to the **light**, lest his deeds should be exposed. **21** But he who does the truth comes to the **light**.

Every Great Fire Must First Be Ignited.

As Christians all of us are to be lights. Thankfully God never qualified what the intensity of the light should be. I am grateful that He didn't say that we all must be raging fires or voluminous infernos. **Not all of us are called to be torches, but all of us are called to be matches and even the smallest match burning against this dark age is a bright thing.**

End of Study

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