What Should I Do?

Philippians 2:12-15

Introduction

- When faced with troubles or cares, we may ask, "What should I do"?
- Paul exhorts the Philippians about what to do "in the world":
  - For their salvation – Verse 12
  - In the midst of crooked and twisted generation - Verse 15
- This exhortation is valuable to us today, "in the world"

Philippians 2:12-15

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning,
15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world

Obey God – Verses 12-13

Constantly

- "as you have always obeyed"
- Even though it's not always:
  - Convenient
    - I Timothy 4:1-4 – "be ready in season and out of season"
  - Popular
    - Acts 28:22 – "… everywhere it is spoken against"
    - I Peter 4:14 – "If you are insulted …"
  - Understood
    - I Peter 4:3-4 – "… they are surprised …"

Obey God – Verses 12-13

Conscientiously

- "not only as in my presence …"
- Our sincerity is tested
  - When we are alone with God
    - cf. I Kings 19:9-10 – "even I only, am left"
  - When absent from those who obey
  - When present with those who do not obey
- Our sincerity is shown by our obedience
  - Romans 6:16-18 – "obedient from the heart"

Obey God – Verses 12-13

Carefully

- "… with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you"
- In awe and respect for the:
  - Power and majesty of God
    - Acts 17:24-25 – "… God who made the world and everything in it"
  - Worship of God
    - John 4:24 – "… worship in spirit and truth"

Obey God – Verses 12-13

Carefully

- "… with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you"
- In awe and respect for the:
  - Promises of God
    - II Peter 3:9 – "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise …"
  - Warnings of God
    - Hebrews 10:26-31 – "… a fearful expectation of judgment"
  - Authority of God
    - John 16:23-24 – "… ask of the Father"

Obey God – Verse 14

Completely

- "Do all things without grumbling or questioning"
- We must teach "the whole counsel of God"
  - Acts 20: 27 – "… I did not shrink from declaring"
- Because sins will be judged
  - Hebrews 2:2-3 – "every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution"
- Judged under a new law
  - James 2:10-12 – "… the law of liberty"

Obey God – Verse 14

Cheerfully

- "… without grumbling or questioning"
- We must be happy to serve God when:
  - Tempted
    - James 1:2-4 – "Count it all joy"
    - I Peter 1:3-7 – "In this you rejoice"
  - Threatened
    - Acts 5:40-42 – "… counted worthy to suffer dishonor …"
  - Troubled
    - II Corinthians 4:8-9 – "… afflicted in every way"
    - Romans 8:35-39 – "… more than conquerors …"

"Shine As Lights" – Verse 15

Different from the darkness of the world

- Matthew 5:14-16 – "You are the light of the world"
- Acts 26:18 – "turn from darkness to light"
- As Christians individually
  - I Thessalonians 5:4-5 – "… you are all children of light"
- As the family of God
  - I Peter 2:9-10 – "… now you are God's people"
- To be a guide to those lost in darkness

"Holding Fast To The Word" Verse 16

We hold fast to the Word by:

- Studying it
  - II Timothy 2:15 – "Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (KJV)
  - Acts 17:11 – "examining the Scriptures daily …"
- Guarding it
  - I Timothy 6:20-21 – "guard the deposit entrusted to you"
  - Jude 3 – "… contend for the faith …"

"Holding Fast To The Word" Verse 16

We hold fast to the Word by:

- Preaching it
  - II Timothy 4:1-4 – "preach the word"
- Preserving it
  - Galatians 2:4-5 – "… that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you"
- Practicing it
  - I Peter 1:13-25 – "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth …"

Obeying The Gospel

Hear the Word of God

- Romans 10:14 – "… how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- John 8:24 – "I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

Obeying The Gospel

Repent of your sins

- Luke 13:3 – "… unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Matthew 10:32 – "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven."

Obeying The Gospel

Be immersed in water

- Mark 16:15-16 – "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved"

Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 – "if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain"