

# Philippians Series

Lesson #055

November 9, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

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# Shining Forth as Lights

## Philippians 2:12–16





# Review

**Introductory paragraph: What is the key statement?**

**Php. 1:27, “Only let the way you live your life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,” [RD]**

**πολιτεύομαι *politeuomai*  
2 plur pres mid impera  
live as a citizen. In Koine Greek it  
had become an idiom for *how  
someone lived their life*. cf., Eph.  
2:19**

**ἀξίως *axiōs* adverb: in  
a worthy manner;  
worthily, in a manner  
worthy of, suitably,  
deserving effort**

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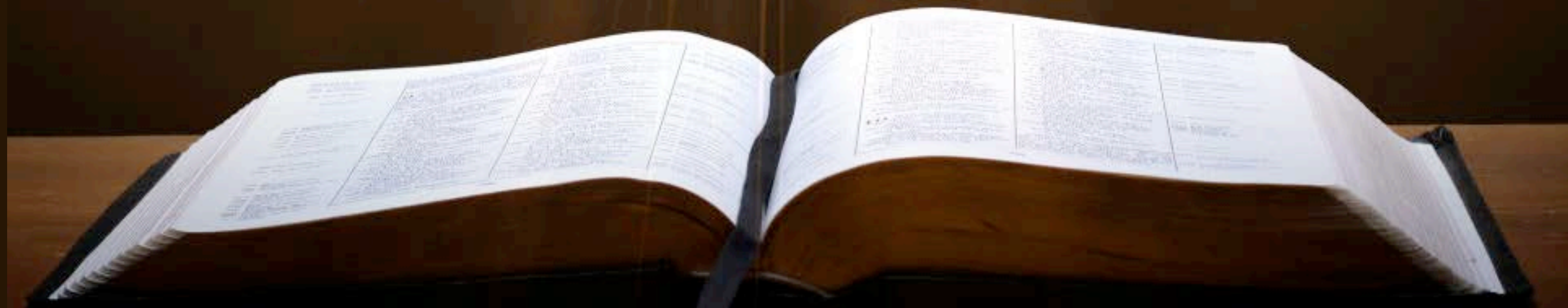
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**στήκω *stēkō* 2 plur pres act indic stand firm;**

**BDAG: ② to be firmly committed in conviction or belief**

**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**Standing Fast**



## **General Outline (2:1–4:1)**

**1A Introduction (1:27–30), live your life worthy of the gospel;**

**2A Main section: emphasis on a life characterized by unity (ch. 2) and steadfastness focus (3:1–4:1);**

**3A Concluding challenge to steadfast thinking and living (4:2–9).**



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**Standing fast; standing firm**

**We stand fast in the Lord, or by means of the Lord.**

**Php. 4:1, “Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”**

**1 Thess. 3:8, “For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.”**

**Php. 2:12–18: The first command: work out your deliverance (phase 2)**

**Php. 2:12, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, you are responsible to produce your own deliverance with fear and trembling;” [RD]**

**κατεργάζομαι *katergazomai*  
2 plur pres mid impera  
to produce something**

**σωτηρία *sōtēria*  
fem sing acc  
salvation,  
deliverance**



# Three Stages of Salvation

**PHASE  
ONE**

**Justification**

**PHASE  
Two**

**Spiritual  
Life**

Text

**PHASE  
THREE**

**Glorification**

**Delivered from  
the Penalty of Sin**

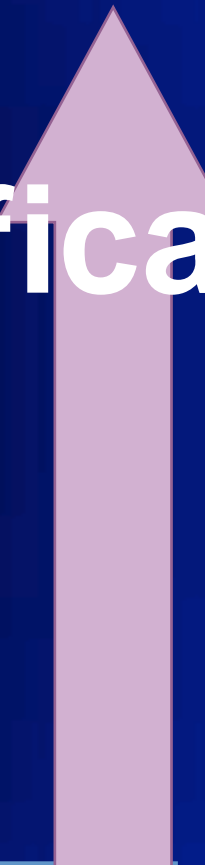
**Being Delivered from  
the Power of Sin**

**Delivered from  
the Presence of Sin**

**“you were saved”**

**“you are being saved”**

**“you will be saved”**



## The second command:

**Php. 2:14, “Do all things without complaining and disputing,”**

*ποιέω poieō*  
2 plur pres act  
impera to do,  
make; to work

*γογγυσμός goggusmos* masc plur gen  
griping, complaining, grumbling,  
expressing discontent

*διαλογισμός dialogismos*  
masc plur gen  
arguing, bickering



## **The purpose for the second command**

**Php. 2:15, “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,”**

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**γίνομαι *ginomai* 2 plur  
aor mid subj  
expresses result/  
purpose  
to become, to become  
something you were not**

**ἄμεμπτος *amemptos*  
masc plur nom  
blameless**

**ἄκέραιος *akeraios*  
masc plur nom  
unmixed, pure, as wine,  
metals, b. of the mind, without  
a mixture of evil, free from  
guile, innocent, simple**

**ἄμωμος *amōmos*  
neut plur nom  
unblemished, spotless**



**Php. 2:15, “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,”**

σκολιός *skolios*  
fem sing gen  
crooked, bent

διαστρέφω *diastrephō*  
perf pass part fem sing gen  
to turn; to pervert; *to pervert,*  
*corrupt:*  
they are crooked because they  
have rejected **THE TRUTH**

**Php. 2:15, “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 [*kosmos*],”**

**σκολιός *skolios*  
fem sing gen  
crooked, bent**

**φαίνω *phainō*  
plur pres mid indic  
to appear, shine;  
cause to shine**

**διαστρέφω *diastrephō*  
perf pass part fem sing gen  
to turn; to pervert; *to pervert,*  
*corrupt*:  
they are crooked because they  
have rejected THE TRUTH**

**φωστήρ (*phōstēr*), luminary,  
brightness**

**Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of acting and thinking like unbelievers (in Adam), but be completely changed, transformed, by the renovation of your thinking, that you may demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and complete.” [RD]**



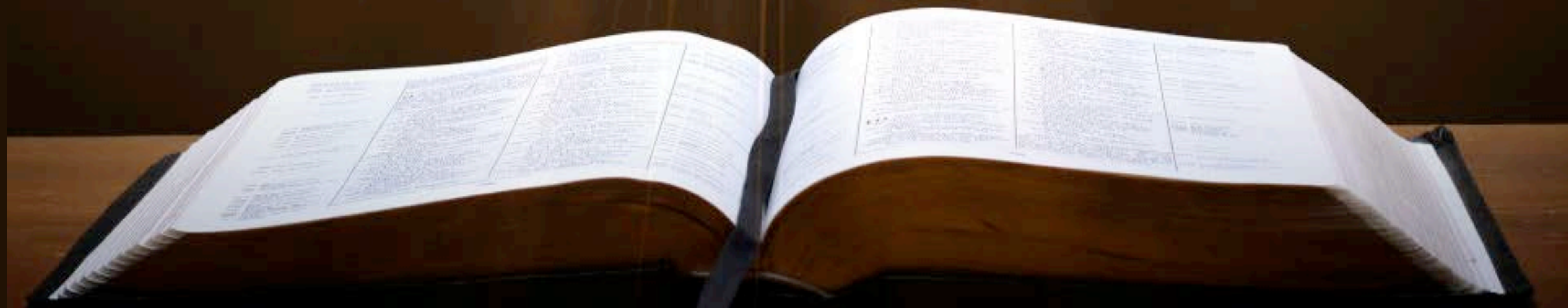
**Php. 2:14, “Do all things without complaining and disputing,**

**Php. 2:15, “for the result 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 [*kosmos*],**

**Php. 2:16, “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.” [NKJV]**

# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **Light and Life**



**1. Light is used as a metaphor to describe the essence, the character of God, His essential being.**

**1 John 1:5, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”**

**1 Tim. 6:16, “who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”**



**Psa. 104:2, “Covering Thyself with light as with a cloak, stretching out heaven like a tent curtain.”**

**Psa. 89:15, “How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Thy countenance.”**

**Psa. 4:6, “Many are saying, ‘Who will show us any good?’ Lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, O LORD!”**

**Hab. 3:4, “His radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays flashing from His hand, and there is the hiding of His power.”**

**Psa. 44:3, “For by their own sword they did not possess the land; And their own arm did not save them; But Thy right hand, and Thine arm, and the light of Thy presence, for Thou didst favor them.”**

**2. Light in reference to its brightness and white purity is used as an illustration of the righteousness of God.**

**Job 30:26, “When I expected good, then evil came; When I waited for light, then darkness came.”**

**Isa. 5:20, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”**

**Isa. 58:8, “Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.”**



**3. Light in its piercing quality, illuminating and revealing what is in the darkness is a metaphor for the justice of God.**

**Isa. 59:9, “Therefore, justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; We hope for light, but behold, darkness; For brightness, but we walk in gloom.”**

**4. The absence of light, darkness, indicates the presence of divine judgment, the condemnation of God for the violation of His righteous standard.**

**Amos 5:18, “Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, for what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light;”**

**Amos 5:20, “Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it?”**

**5. The presence of light often refers to the Veracity of God; His eternal truth.**

**Psa. 43:3, “O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Thy holy hill, and to Thy dwelling places.”**



**6. Specifically, light then describes more specifically the facets or components of God's Integrity: His righteousness, justice, and truth.**

**Psa. 89:14, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; Loving kindness and truth go before Thee."**

**Psa. 89:15, "How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Thy countenance."**

**7. The absolute Truth of God then is the attribute underlying His revelation. So light is used to represent the illumination of divine truth. The Word lights our thinking and way in life.**

**Psa. 18:28, “For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.”**

**Psa. 119:105, “Your WORD is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”**

**8. In conclusion, light represents the totality of the divine essence with special emphasis on His righteousness, justice, truth, and the illumination and guidance which Bible doctrine provides for life.**



## **9. The LIGHT of God is related to life itself.**

**Psa. 36:9, “For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.”**

**10. Jesus is said to be both Life and the Light of mankind.**

**John 1:4, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”**

**11. Light is contrasted with darkness, light is the revelation of God. Darkness is the absence or the rejection of God's revelation.**

**John 1:5, “And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”**

**John 3:19, “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.**

**John 3:20, “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”**



## **12. Jesus is the LIGHT.**

**John 1:9, “That [i.e., the Word] was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”**

**John 8:12, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’ ”**

**John 9:5, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”**

**John 12:36, “ ‘While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.’ These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.”**

**John 12:46, “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.”**

## **13. Summary to this point.**

- God is light.**
- Jesus is the light of the world.**
- Jesus' light brings life into the world, light and life are connected and dispel the darkness.**
- But the darkness rejects the light.**
- But the ones who come to the light, become sons of light and are to not abide in darkness.**

**14. Since God is light (pt. 1, 1 John 1:5), we are to live our lives in the light to have fellowship with one another.**



**This next section deals with our new identity in reference to God's Light.**

**15. Light is used as a metaphor for kingdom of God and the plan of God in contrast to darkness, which is used as a metaphor for the kingdom of Satan, carnality, sin, and evil.**

**Acts 26:18, “ ‘to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’ ”**

**Col. 1:13, “For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,”**

**16. Our new legal position, adopted into the royal family of God, is LIGHT.**

**Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”**

**1 Thess. 5:5, “You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”**

**17. But in our experience, we walk or think, talk, live, either in the light or in darkness.**



**1 John 1:5, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**

**1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.**

**1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”**

**Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness [our position as unbelievers], but now you are light in the Lord [our new identity in Christ].**

**Walk as children of light!”**

**[But this implies we can walk like children of darkness.]**

**1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”**

**18. We are not to partner (have no fellowship) with the works of darkness, but expose them.**

**Eph. 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.**

**Eph. 5:12, “For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.**

**Eph. 5:13, “But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.”**

**Matt. 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.**

**Matt. 5:15, “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.**

**Matt. 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”**



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