1 – **Appearing As Lights In The World**

Philippians 2:12-15

2 - **The Need…**

* There’s a lot of darkness in the world.
* God needs **individuals and the Lord’s Church** to step up and be lights in this dark world.
* **Philippians 2:15**, “…***prove yourselves*** *to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation… among whom you appear as* ***lights in the world***…”
* Not to draw attention to self but to glorify God and lead others to Him. Matthew 5:16

3 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

* **Consistent Obedience** – Philippians 2:12, *“…just as you have* ***always obeyed****, not as in my presence only, but* ***now much more in my absence…****”*

4 - **Consistent Obedience** –

* What makes us lights in the world is when we’re obedient & faithful **ALL THE TIME**! (Acts 20:18-19)
* When we’re being watched and when we think we aren’t.
(Ephesians 6:5-6; 1 Peter 2:11-12)
* When times are good and when they’re not! (Daniel)

5 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

* **Diligent Effort** – Philippians 2:12, “…***work out your salvation*** …”

6 - **Diligent Effort**

* What this ***IS NOT*** saying –
	+ Determine our own path to God (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23)
* What this ***IS*** saying –
	+ We must work at it!
* **Do it with all your might**. Ecclesiastes 9:10;
1 Corinthians 9:24ff; Luke 13:24

7 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

* **Reverence and respect for God** – Philippians 2:12, “…***with fear and trembing*** …”

8 - **Reverence And Respect For God**

Philippians 2:12, *“…****with fear and trembling****…”*

* Reverence and respect for God in today’s world will shine forth as brightly as the sun. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Hebrews 12:28 – shine by serving God with ***“reverence and awe”.***

Malachi 2:5 – reverence for God’s word.

2 Corinthians 7:1 – inspiring reverent conduct (1 Peter 1:17)

9 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

* **Useful To The Master - Philippians 2:13, *“…for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure…”***

**10 – Useful To The Master**

* How does God work in us?
	+ Make it our desire (will) & our practice (work) to do **what pleases Him**! (Romans 15:18; Acts 21:19; Hebrews 13:21)
	+ But first… **2 Timothy 2:21**, *“Therefore,* ***if*** *a man* ***cleanses himself*** *from these things, he will be…****useful to the Master****…”*
	+ Make it your purpose to be useful to the Lord in His service... you’ll be a light in this world.
		- Why? Everyone else is pleasing self.

11 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

* **Consistently Proper Attitude** - Philippians 2:14, “*Do* ***all things without grumbling or disputing****…”*

12 - Key: *“****ALL THINGS****”* in our duties before God and man. (1 Corinthians 16:14; Titus 2:7)

* **Without grumbling**, complaining or murmuring. (1 Corinthians 10:10-11)
* **Without disputing** - i.e., objections, debates or arguments. (Job 13:3; 1 Corinthians 3:18-20)

13 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

* **Higher Standards & Goals** – Philippians 2:15, *“…prove yourselves to be* ***blameless and innocent****,* ***children of God******above reproach*** *in the midst of a* ***crooked and perverse generation****…”*

14 - **Higher Standards and Goals**

* We must live by **a higher standard than our own**. Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9
* The need for **Holy conduct**. 1 Peter 1:14-16
* Need to **rise above** “***Above reproach***…” the standard of the world; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11;
1 Peter 2:11-12; 4:1-3
* **Come out…be separate**! 2 Corinthians 6:17

15 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

* **Never Quitting** - Philippians 2:16,
“***holding fast*** the word of life, so that ***in the day of Christ*** I may have cause to glory because I ***did not run in vain*** nor toil in vain”

16 - **Never Quitting**

* It’s **what *“Christians”* do**! (Acts 11:23)
* **Hold fast** – Hold On!!! – Hebrews 3:12-14 – “*firm and secure*”; Hebrews 6:11-12.
* There’s a vital need for endurance.
Hebrews 10:32-39, “…*you have need of endurance,* …”; James 1:3-4
* Revelation 2:10, “*Be faithful until death…”*

17 - **How do we prove to be lights in the world?**

1. **Consistent Obedience** – Vs.12
2. **Diligent Effort** – Vs. 12,
3. **Reverence For God** – vs. 12
4. **Useful To The Master** – Vs. 13,
5. **Consistently Proper Attitude** – Vs. 14,
6. **Higher Standards & Goals** – Vs. 15,
7. **Never Quitting** – Vs. 16,

 It’s was Paul’s mission to turn men from “darkness to light” so that we might receive forgiveness of sins. Acts 26:18