**IT’S YOUR TIME TO SHINE**

**Philippians 2:12-18)**

**WE CAN SHINE BECAUSE GOD IS AT WORK IN US**

* *“Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.”* (Philippians 2:12-13)
* **We do not work *for* our salvation, but we are called to work *out* our salvation through the grace and power of God.**
* *““The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”* (Proverbs 9:10)
* **Sanctification is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus in our attitude, actions, and speech through the power of God working in and through us.**
* *“But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life!”* (Romans 6:22)

**WE DO SHINE WHEN WE AVOID COMPLAINING AND ARGUING**

* *“Do everything without grumbling and arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, 16 by holding firm to the word of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn’t run or labor for nothing.”* (Philippians 2:14-16)
* **Adopting the attitude of Christ involves doing everything in a manner that brings glory to God.**
* *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.”* (1 Corinthians 10:31)
* **When we are rooted in the Scriptures and reminded of the mission, we can overcome the temptation to be divisive.**
* **Is your attitude and speech different from non-Christians?**

**WE KEEP SHINING WHEN WE DISPLAY THE JOY OF THE LORD**

* *“But even if I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrificial service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 In the same way you should also be glad and rejoice with me.” (Philippians 2:17-18)*
* **In light of what Jesus did for us on the cross we can rejoice in spite of any suffering we may endure.**
* *“This is the day the Lord has made; let’s rejoice and be glad in it.”* (Psalm 118:24)
* *“And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, 4 endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. 5 This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”* (Romans 5:3-5)
* **As God works in and through us perfecting us, we must choose let our light shine in such a way that people are drawn to Christ, rather than pushed away from Christ.**
* *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16)

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** Who is someone you look up to as an example and why?

**Understanding:**

* What does Philippians 2:12-18 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What is the difference between working “for” your salvation, and working “out” your salvation? Why is it important to know the difference?
* What does sanctification mean?
* How does Paul contrast the way Christians should be different from the world?
* How was Paul able to maintain joy in spite of his suffering?

**Digging Deeper:**

* How does knowing God is at work in you affect your view serving Him in spite of circumstances?
* How do complaining and arguing negatively affect the church and its mission? How does it affect your individual example to others?
* How does adopting the attitude of Christ enable you to shine?
* How does Paul’s example of rejoicing in hardships affect your view of disappointments and hardships?
* What impacted you most about this study? What will you do differently?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected

to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the church office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule.