

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 6
PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16
WEEK OF OCTOBER 21 - 25

LIVING IN THE MIDST OF A CROOKED AND PERVERSE GENERATION

In **Philippians 2:12-16**, Paul provides us with practical instruction to encourage us to live for Jesus Christ in the midst of a wicked and ungodly generation. “This was Paul's great desire for the Saints at Philippi, and, it is God's desire for us. We are not to retreat from the world but we are to live for God in the world. We are to do so even though the world is crooked and perverse.” [Philippians](#), James Montgomery Boice, page 148

1. Read **Philippians 2:12-14**. Paul continues in his letter to the Philippians with the phrase “So then” (in the NASB, LSB) or “Therefore” (NIV, ESV). When we see the word “therefore”, we need to ask, what is the therefore, there for? As you look back to the previous 7 verses, to what is Paul referring?

Paul's instruction to the believers for living in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation begins in **verse 12** with the importance of growing in **Christlikeness** and obedience to the Lord. This process is called progressive sanctification. See *the CBC Doctrinal Statement section IV. 4.* “*The Continuation of Salvation*” for a thorough explanation.

2. From **vs. 12**, how are we to work out our salvation with fear and trembling and what does this mean? How does **Ephesians 2:8-10** help to understand this?
3. From **vs. 13**, what is God's role in the work of progressive sanctification in our lives?
4. Believers are to live obedient lives dependent on God's Holy Spirit to enable them to live obediently. In addition to obedient and holy living to set us apart from those in darkness, from **vs. 14**, what sinful attitudes are believers to put off in **verse 14**?

5. Rather than grumbling or complaining, what attitudes, from the following verses, should be exemplified in a believer growing in Christ-likeness?

- **Philippians 4:11-12**

- **I Peter 4:9-10**

6. What describes the lives of sanctified believers in **vs.15** when contrasted with this crooked and perverse generation?

7. How does **Matt. 5:14, 16, Ephesians 5:8**, and **I Thess. 5:5** describe believers living in this dark world? What does that mean?

8. As believers living in this dark world, from **Phil 2:16**, we are instructed to “hold fast” the word of life. ‘Hold fast’ is better translated as ‘hold forth’ which means to offer something for others to take. From **verse 16**, what are believers to offer the world?

“Just as right doctrine without right character is hypocritical and ineffective, so also is right living ineffective if believers are not proclaiming gospel truth.” [MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians](#), John MacArthur, p.185

9. What truths or commands impacted you most from **Philippians 2:12-16**? What actions will you take in response to these commands and truths? What thoughts or attitudes will you “take captive to the obedience of Christ” (**2 Cor. 10:5**)?