

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Sermon Title: Shine like stars

Bible Passage: Philippians 2:12-18

### **Introduction**

The book of Philippians is Paul's letter of Joy to the believers in Philippi.

Paul wrote to thank the Philippians for their generous gifts sent to Paul and to strengthen the believers showing them true Joy comes from Jesus.

Take time to read the passage, perhaps try at a different Bible translation e.g. The Message, The Passion Translation or the Amplified version

### **• Re-capping the Preach:**

Michelle began introducing how Paul had learnt to be content in every circumstance, in adverse poverty and abundant wealth and all that is in-between, shining in his faith radiating Gods love through his life (lifestyle, actions) and by his lips (how and what he communicated verbally).

In all seasons of life, we can embrace the truths within it, through grief, sadness, illness and times of change. We are called to shine like stars in a depraved and corrupt world.

There is joy in suffering, serving, in believing and in giving.

How then do we shine like stars, radiating Gods Presence, living so that others are drawn to Jesus with us?

### **Questions for reflection**

- How are you changed by time in God's Presence? - recall Moses and how after his encounter with God on Mt Sinai his face glowed with the countenance of God's glory.
- What has Paul to say about being obedient to God (v12)?
- What does our obedience look like when only God is watching? Remember the teacher stepping out of the classroom illustration.
- Do you have an example of how God works in you to will and act in order to fulfil his good purpose (v 12-13)?
- Would you be able to share this with us as church family to encourage us in our faith? Speak to Stu and offer to share your story.
- Can you recall the Godly people in your life who have supported you, been an example to you in your growing faith in Jesus?
- Is there a way you can share this with them, or send them a thank you for investing in your life and praying for you this far?
- Perhaps be particularly mindful this week not to moan /groan but remember whose you are (Gods) and where our inheritance is (treasure in heaven)
- How can my life be different today as I respond to what I hear and read?
- What one thing will help you shine brightly as the stars?
- How will you live differently this week so that you are an attractive sweet aroma for Jesus' drawing others to Jesus.

**Prayer pointers:**

Mediate on Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world.) and Daniel 12:3 “Those who are wise will shine...)

Pray God will revitalize you and give a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit as you continue to shine brightly like stars wherever you are placed and live.

“God will continually revitalize you, implanting within you the passion to do what pleases him.” (The Passion Translation)

**Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>

**Things to do:**

- In what ways can you share the light of Jesus with others?
- .Whenever you find yourself wanting to moan and groan, remember non-Christians are watching us, and being negative is not an attractive trait that draws others to Jesus.