

January 24, 2024

The Lord wants you to live in His light.

2 Cor. 4:6-7 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (NIV)

As we read yesterday, the church in Philippi had some issues within. There was complaining and arguing among the members. Paul addresses this directly with the admonition to get rid of all of the arguing and complaining, for these are not from God, but from selfish motives. Instead, he calls on them to be 'blameless.' That doesn't mean that they would never sin, but if they did, they would confess it and correct the situation. When we have Jesus as our Master, we have two choices: to obey or not. It is in the obedience that we find His peace. It is in this we also find unity instead of dissent.

The way we can do that is focus on the commission that we've been given, to share the good news with everyone. This gets us looking outward instead of inward. When we see people like God sees them, we will love them unconditionally. We will look beyond any faults and see the needs. Paul references the 'jars of clay.' This, no doubt, was a reminder to them of Gideon's army. They went out with three hundred men and God gave them the victory of the Midianite army that was too large to number. All they had to do was put a light in a jar of clay and at the appropriate time, break the jar and let the light shine. God then gave the victory and all Gideon's men had to do was watch the Midianite army slaughter each other.

Dear LORD, help us focus on the commission You have given us, to go and tell. We all have neighbors, co-workers, family members and strangers we meet, that need to know You. Empower us to go in Your Name and as broken vessels, let Your light shine. We ask this in Jesus Name, Amen