

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. Philippians 2:14-16 (NIV)

Work To Do

I have given you work to do for me in this world. I have a purpose and plan for your life. I have called you to go and do my will. I want you to be my bright and bold witness in the world. I want you to shine like a star in the universe. This comes as welcome news to me. I want to know and do your will. I want to be able to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans. I want to be a bold and bright witness for you in the world. I want to shine like a star in the universe so that others will be drawn to you through my life. **That is very good.**

What might hinder me from being a bold and bright witness for you in the world? **That is a very good question. I am glad that you asked it. However, I do think that you know the answer to this question. I will listen to what you can say to me in answer to your own question.** I must confess that I have been a complainer and an arguer. I have complained about the difficulty of life and the work you have given me to do for you. I have argued with you about your purposes and plans for my life. I have said that the work was too difficult and that I am unable, unqualified and unprepared to do what you have asked me to do for you. **That's not good.** I know. **Why is it not good that you have been a complainer and arguer?** Complaining and arguing are the ways of the world. Complaining and arguing is standard practice in the world. If I let myself be a complainer and an arguer then there will be no way that I will be able to shine as a bold and bright witness for you in the world. **No, you will not. What else?** If I continue to complain and argue I will never accomplish the purposes and plans you have for my life. **Why is that?** What you ask of me will require faith. For me to be able to do what you ask of me I will need to come to rely on you. If I come to you to complain and argue, my faith will not grow. If I continue to complain and argue, I will never rely on you to go and do what you ask of me. **That's true.** So, I will stop complaining and arguing. I will place all my faith in you. I will come to rely on you. I will allow you to use me to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans so that my labor will never be in vain. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I want to be a bold, bright, pure, and vibrant witness for you in the world. Help me to do what you have given me to do without complaining or arguing. Help me also, to be holding out your word of life to others in the world so they can come to know you. Amen

Character *Shine Like Stars*

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

NIV Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Shining Like Bright Lights*

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

NLT Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Shine Like Stars*

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

NRSV Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Seen As Bright Lights*

Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves], That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world, Holding out [to it] and offering [to all men] the Word of Life, so that in the day of Christ I may have something of which exultantly to rejoice and glory in that I did not run my race in vain or spend my labor to no purpose.

AMP Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Appear As Lights*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will 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, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

NASB Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Shine As Lights*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

ESV Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Shine As Lights*

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

NKJV Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Carry The Light*

Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.

MSG Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Like Beacon Lights*

In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are crooked and stubborn. Shine out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life. Then when Christ returns, how glad I will be that my work among you was so worthwhile.

TLB Philippians 2:14-16

Character *Shine Like Stars*

Do everything without complaining or arguing. Then you will be innocent and without any wrong. You will be God's children without fault. But you are living with crooked and mean people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world. You offer the teaching that gives life. So when Christ comes again, I can be happy because my work was not wasted. I ran the race and won.

NCV Philippians 2:14-16

Shine Like Stars

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Character – Philippians 2:14-16

In Context: *Read Philippians 2*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. Philippians 2:14-16

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Do everything | without complaining | or arguing, | so that | you | may become | blameless and pure, | children of God | without fault | in a crooked | and | depraved generation, | in which | you shine | like stars | in the universe | as you | hold out | the word | of life | -in order that | I may boast | on the day | of Christ | that I | did not run | or labor | for nothing. Philippians 2:14-16

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I want to be a bold, bright, pure, and vibrant witness for you in the world. Help me to do what you have given me to do without complaining or arguing. Help me also, to be holding out your word of life to others in the world so they can come to know you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How are you making it your goal to do what needs to be done without complaining or arguing?

When have you regretted being drawn into an argument that damaged your relationship with others?

How can allowing yourself to complain or argue hinder your witness for Jesus Christ?

What has helped or hindered your ability to do what must be done without complaining or arguing?

Why will you stand out from the world when you do what must be done without complaining or arguing?

How are you holding out the word of life to others in the world so that they can come to know Christ?

How has the Lord been helping you to be a bold, bright, pure and vibrant witness for Him?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Live your life as a bold, bright, pure and vibrant witness for Jesus Christ in the world.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to shine as a bold, bright, pure and vibrant witness for Him in the world.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are holding out the word of life to others in the world.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you do what the Lord has given you to do without complaining and arguing so you can be a witness for Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will do whatever you have given me to do without complaining or arguing so I can be a witness for you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I be a bold, bright, pure and vibrant witness for you today?
