

Living in A Crooked World **Philippians 2:12-16**

When will the violence and killing stop, one asked.

The only answer I can give is, Heaven.

From beginning man has turned to violence when things did not go his way; It will always be so. Many seek answers to stop such violence, weapon bans, medical & psychiatric treatment, more love, more vigilance, more guards.

In reality only one thing that you can do. - Fix yourself!

That was Paul's instruction to brethren in Philippi.

Help the world by being a right example before them as children of God.

Many hate God & religion because of bad example of religious people.

Start shining brightly in the midst of the darkness.

Save Yourself First! 12A

Jesus "1st remove plank from own eye" - **Matthew 7:3-5**

Emphasizes importance of "getting your own act together first"

Once "removed plank", can/should "remove speck" in other's eye

May lose our salvation in way react to others!

Many try to change society for better, using methods that will keep themselves out of kingdom of God! - **Galatians 5:19-6:5**

Paul saw need be very careful trying to save others - **1Corinthians 9:27**

Ultimately, I am the only one I can save!

With "Fear And Trembling" 12B

Jesus certainly taught the "fear of the Lord" - **Matthew 10:28**

"Fear" in connection with God not popular

Reaction to "hell, fire and brimstone" preaching of generation?

But could it be that we have gone to the other extreme?

Have diluted concept of "fear of the Lord" by our definitions?

To point is no place for "trembling" in our definition of fear?

The need to have proper "fear and trembling"...

Without, unlikely seriously make effort to work out salvation

Is this reason so much apathy & fruitlessness in church today?

By Letting God Work In Us 13

Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 1:6

"To will" helping motivation, and "To work" helping ability 13

But if not careful, we can easily quench God's efforts to work in us

Without Murmuring And Disputing 14

By maintaining a positive attitude!

Allowing selves to be complainers will render us less effective

As with Israel, murmuring lead own downfall - **1Corinthians 10:10-12**

By getting along with your brethren

Unity extremely important convince world of Jesus - **John 17:20-21**

Disputing reveals we have some growing up to do! - **1Corinthians 3:1-4**

As Children Of God Without Fault 15

Which requires us to become "blameless"

Not perfect, but as elders are blameless, we are above reproach

Are sinners, but quickly confess sins and make amends

Should live such way no outstanding faults evident to others

Nothing hinders shine as lights as inconsistency and hypocrisy

It also requires us to be "harmless" - **2Timothy 2:24-26; Matthew 10:16**

Holding Fast The Word Of Life 16

Remember, Word of God is "sword of the Spirit"!

Only "offensive weapon" in the armor of God **Ephesians 6:10-17**

Spirit convict of sin, new birth - **James 1:18; 1Peter 1:23; Romans 1:16**

"Hold fast" and "hold forth" powerful Word!

Some translations say "hold fast", others "hold forth"

"Hold fast" in own study & application "hold forth" to teach - **Ezra 7:10**

Paul delivers the imperative to "shine as lights"

Fixing the world is not our job

By fixing our own heart we have a chance to help the hearts of those around us

Changing the hearts of men to the ways of God!

That work will not be in vain! **Philippians 2:16**

Let our rejoicing come in the Day of the Lord

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