

Living In A Perverse Generation

Philippians 1:12-20

1. Vs. 12, circumstances that Paul was in (prison) were turning out for the greater good of the gospel.
2. Vs. 13-14, his imprisonment for the cause of Christ was known throughout the guards. Most of the brethren have more courage to speak because of Paul's response to his circumstances.
3. Vs. 15-18, there were some who were preaching Christ as a pretense or for their own benefit, yet Paul urges his readers that God will even use that to His glory.
4. Vs. 19-20, Paul's response is God will be glorified whether in his death or his release from jail.

Cf. Daniel 3:13-18

Philippians 1:27-30

1. Vs. 27, we are to conduct ourselves as believers in the midst of evil and wicked rulers.
2. Vs. 28, do not be alarmed by your opponents.
3. Vs. 29, we have been granted the right to not only believe, but to suffer for Christ.

Philippians 2:5-18

1. Vs. 5, what kind of attitude should we have in the midst of evil?
2. Vs. 6-8, the attitude of Christ.
3. Vs. 14-18, defines our attitude in the midst of this generation.

This is where we are at, a crooked and perverse generation. And it's not as if there has never been a crooked and perverse generation, Genesis 6:5 **"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."** Perhaps now, in our case, when at other times these actions were covered up, they are more openly manifest and promoted today.

The power structure of our nation is being taken over by people who are godless and contrary to Scripture. We care about righteousness and truth. We cherish personal righteousness. But our culture is deep into personal sin, wickedness and it's not even hidden in any way. In fact, it's being flaunted and those who advocate wicked, evil behavior and now have power to make laws.

We cherish marriage, family and both are being attacked by the media and the law. Leaders advocate fornication, trans-sexualism, pornography, etc., and courts and leaders approve of such actions. Cf. Romans 1:24-31

Believers support law and order because it's biblical, cf. Romans 13. God established governments to restrain evil and has given them the authority to punish evil doers. We have seen leaders who desire to rid law enforcement and somehow think man is going to behave.

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Note: Are we in divine judgment for decades of rebellion? Sexual revolution, abortion, abolishment of marriage and family? Are we going to be under this judgement because we are a part of a nation that lives under the ungodly people who rule? There are three features in the broad sense of our text that I believe will help us navigate these times.

1. Where we are
2. Who we are
3. How we are to live

I. WHERE WE ARE

Vs. 15 (Philippians 2) defines that very place. We aren't the first one to be in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. In order to really grasp the letter of Philippians and the persecution we have to remove ourselves from our 21st century Christianity in America.

- History of the city and historical and cultural context
- You were given the status of a Roman citizen if you lived there and all the paganism of Rome, the idolatry, it was crooked and perverse
- Paul established the first church in Philippi on his second missionary journey, cf. Acts 16:14-21
- Vs. 28-30 (chapter 1) don't be alarmed by your opponents
- To make matters worse, the church was attacked by false teachers, cf. Philippians 3:2,3, 18-19

This is tough. The only church in Europe in the midst of paganism, poor, persecuted, attacked by false teachers, and internal discord and disunity. Yet, it is called the epistle of joy. The Scriptures tells us to be joyful, eternal joyful, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

- The word "crooked" comes from the Greek word where we get scoliosis of the spine. It's a twisting and curving, being bent and it means to be twisted. This is a generation that is twisted in terms of virtue and truth. Cf. Proverbs 2:11-15

Isaiah describes a generation of people in Isaiah 59:7-8 **"Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, Devastation and destruction are in their highways. They do not know the way of peace, And there is no justice in their tracks; They have made their paths crooked, Whoever treads on them does not know peace."** Cf. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 as we see where we are.

God has us exactly where He wants us. Brethren, God has you right here, right now for a reason. This is why we have to remove the fact that we are not citizens here but citizens of heaven. We are in the world, but we are not of the world.

II. WHO WE ARE

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We are children of God. We're not strangers to Him. We are pilgrims and strangers in they world, but we sit at the kings table.

- Our behavior, our actions our hope is different from orphans, cf. John 8:42-47
- The world is known by its actions such as lying, stealing, killing, and wickedness. These are all actions of the devil.
- We are children of God. We obey God. We obey His word. 1 John 3:10 **"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."**
- We are lights in the world. This is why God has us here. This is why God has you here today and why He has you where you are. The Greek word for light is used for the sun and the moon and the stars. It is referring to luminaries. All of these light the darkness, as Christians are suppose to do.

You appear as lights in the dark world. In a world where morality is blended with normalcy, where killing babies in the womb is a right to privacy, where speaking against biblical marriage and family is considered racist or homophobic, you shine as lights to those around you. It's a dark world, a wicked world and God has you here to shine. Not to be depressed because a despot has taken over and making laws and executive orders. But to shine. To speak truth of heaven and hell.

Matthew 5:14-16 **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."**