

Life Group Notes 17th January 2021

Shining Like Stars

What did God speak to you about on Sunday? What can you remember from Si's message?

Phil2:16 (NIV) makes clear when we live for Christ, "Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life." To help us do that this year God wants us to:

- **Be Strengthened** in Christ,
- **Target** what we do to be in line with where the Spirit leads,
- **Advance** God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven,
- *and using our Resources* to partner with heaven in the work the Father has for us to do.

Strengthened in Christ – The great news is that we can receive fresh filling and strength from God's Holy Spirit each day, not by earning it or because we deserve it but because of His grace. The Apostle Paul after explaining in Eph 2:1-10 that it is by grace we have been saved, which is open to all people Eph 2:11-22, and has always been part of God's salvation plan in Christ Eph 3:1-13; prays this pray - **Read Eph 3:14-21. What does this teach us about God, about his goodness towards us, and about strength he has on offer to us? What things stop Christians from going to God to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit?** (Pride, guilt/shame – not understanding grace, habit etc.)

Targeting what we do – Read 1 Cor 3:10-16 and discuss what this passage teaches us about how we are to view our life, what we do with our life, and what we now are in Christ? Remember whilst Paul is writing to the Corinthian church thus it is applicable to us as ChristChurch, as well as us on an individual level. (View our life in the light of eternity, all our deeds/how we use our time will be judged, salvation secured but our lives can be wasted, we are temple of God! Wow). **What specific ways is God calling you to target your time this year to engage in things of eternal significance?**

Advancing God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven – Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven . ." Matt6:9-10. Whilst the zeal of the Lord will ensure his work always is completed [Isaiah9:7] and it is Jesus who will build his church and not even hell will prevail against it [Matt16:18], he has given you the privilege of play a part in this. **Where would you like/feel God leading you to see kingdom advance in this year?** (Your work, family, the next generation, people struggling with addiction etc.)

Resourcing the work the Father has for us – No matter how rich or poor someone is the things they value they will invest in – their house, car, clothes shoes, hair, sport or hobby etc. **Before God take a moment to prayerfully consider does your current giving to God reflect that you value him and his kingdom?** Just after Jesus tells us to lay up for yourself treasure in heaven . . for where our treasure is there will your heart be, he goes on to say – **Read Matt6:25-33. Realising that this passage is given in the context of Jesus addressing our finances read v33 again and discuss what seeking first the Kingdom looks like with our money?** (I know we British don't like talking about money, but God has a lot to say about it, so as Christians we must speak about it too, it's a discipleship issue.) **Finish by praying for each other to be strengthened by the Spirit so that we shine like stars for Christ.**