

# Summary

This sermon focuses on the call for Christians to 'shine like stars' as found in Philippians 2:12-18. Pastor emphasizes that while graduates are often asked 'what will you do?', the more important question is 'who will you become?' The message centers on three key practices: working out what God has worked in (living out salvation with humility and purpose), practicing authentic contrast (living differently from the world's self-centered culture), and maintaining an eternal perspective focused on God's kingdom. The pastor stresses that education and all of life should be grounded in God's Word, with the ultimate goal being to represent Christ's interests in every area of life. He emphasizes that nothing matters but the kingdom, and because of the kingdom, everything matters - from engineering to art to any honest work, all can serve God's purposes when done for His glory.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather today as Your people, grateful for Your faithfulness and provision in our lives. As we come together to study Your Word and learn from one another, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to see ourselves and our calling through Your eyes. May our time together draw us closer to You and to one another as we seek to understand what it means to shine like stars in this world. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

If you could be known for one positive quality or characteristic, what would you want it to be and why?

## Key Verses

- Philippians 2:12-18
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Matthew 6:33

# Questions

- What does it mean to 'work out your salvation with fear and trembling' and how is this different from working for your salvation?
- The pastor mentioned that we live in a 'warped and crooked generation.' What are some specific ways our culture promotes self-centeredness, and how can we practice being 'other-centered' instead?
- How can we practically 'shine like stars' in our daily lives - at work, school, home, or in our communities?
- The sermon emphasized that 'nothing matters but the kingdom, and because of the kingdom, everything matters.' How does this perspective change the way we view our jobs, hobbies, and daily activities?
- What role does Christian community play in helping us live out our faith authentically? How can we better support one another in shining like stars?
- The pastor talked about the difference between being 'passive consumers' and 'active transformers of culture.' What does it look like to be an active transformer in your sphere of influence?
- How do we maintain an eternal perspective while still being responsible for our earthly duties and obligations?
- What are some practical ways we can avoid 'hiding our light' and instead let our faith be visible to those around us?

## Life Application

This week, identify one specific area of your life (work, school, relationships, or community involvement) where you can more intentionally 'shine like a star.' Choose one practical way to demonstrate Christ's love, truth, or character in that area, and commit to putting it into practice. Consider how you can move from being a passive consumer to an active transformer in that sphere of influence.

## Key Takeaways

- Christians are called to 'shine like stars' by living out their salvation with humility and purpose
- We must practice authentic contrast by living other-centered lives in a self-centered world
- All of life matters for God's kingdom - every job, skill, and activity can serve His purposes
- Christian community is essential for supporting one another in living out our faith

- We need an eternal perspective that sees beyond earthly success to kingdom impact

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us to be lights in this world and for the privilege of representing You in all we do. Help us to remember that You have given us everything we need through Your salvation to shine like stars. Give us courage to live authentically as Your people, wisdom to see opportunities to serve Your kingdom, and strength to work out what You have worked in us. May others see You in our lives and be drawn to Your love and truth. As we go from this place, help us to support one another in this calling and to remember that nothing matters but the kingdom, and because of the kingdom, everything matters. We pray this in Your precious name, Amen.