

# The Day of Christ

21 - Living the Simple Gospel: Philippians  
Church on the Park I Sunday, 28 March 2017

**Text:** “Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you **become** without fault and mixture, children of God without spot in the midst of a crooked [warped] and perverse [twisted] generation [Moses’ Song, Deut. 32:5], among whom you radiate 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 [labour to the point of exhaustion] in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.” (Philippians 2:14-18, personal translation)

**Theme:** Live in light of the day of Christ.

**Intro:** Everything that Paul did was in light of the day of Christ. Living in light of that day gives you a total different set of values. What the world values, is not what you value. The things that the world glories in are temporary, but what Paul esteems is eternal. Paul is not living for money, power or appreciation by people. Instead, he’s living for the day of Christ. That’s why he puts so much weight on how God’s people live—because that is what matters in the end.

**D - Decide** to live in light of the day of Christ

**A - Assess** everything based on what will endure

**Y - Yoke** yourself to Christ when you become weary

## 1) Decide to live in light of the day of Christ (Phil. 2:16).

- The day of Christ is **not** a **twenty-four hour day**.
  - Instead, it’s a **time period**, when Christ’s Kingdom breaks into the world and he judges things as they really are.
- Right now, the world (this age) is in the **darkness**, in the **night**.
  - Morally and spiritually, the world is dark, twisted and warped.
  - The devil is called the “**god of this age**” (2 Cor. 4:4)
    - He **blinds** the eyes of those who do not believe.
- We, however, are called to be the **light** the the **darkness**, the **stars** in the **night** and the **torches** showing God’s **way**.
  - We are called to **radiate**.
  - We are those who are **of the day of Christ** and **prophecy** of that day with our **lives**.
  - That’s what the **church** is—we are the **community** of the **day** in the **night**. We are like an **oasis** in the desert. We are **ambassadors** of the **Kingdom to come**.
    - But here’s the warning Christ gave: “If then the light within you is darkness, how great is the darkness” (Matthew 6:23).
      - In other words, if the torch is burning, the darkness will be even greater.
  - **Billy Graham** often quoted this verse: “Multitudes, multitudes in the **valley of decision**! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.” (Joel 3:14).
    - One day the Lord will **decide** whether you’ve made the **right decisions**.
    - Joshua said, “**Choose** [take a keen look at] this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15, ESV)
  - **Paul** refers to the **day of Christ** many **times**.
    - In Philippians you find it in **Philippians 1:6, 10** and in 2:16 (today’s passage).
    - You see it in 1 Cor. 1:8, Romans 13:12-13, as well as 1 Cor. 13:13, 2 Cor. 1:14, 1 Thes. 2:2, 2 Tim. 4:8; 2 Peter 3:10, etc.

## 2) **Assess** everything based on what will endure (1 Cor. 3:5-15).

- *What do I mean by "live in light of the day of Christ"?*
  - In that day, Jesus will **judge** the **value** of everything we have **done**.
- *Do you know what 'assess' means?*
  - It means to **determine** the **value** of something.
  - The things that people **labour** and **run** after in this world, will be of **no value**.
  - **Don't labour in vain** for things that have no **eternal value**.
  - Only the things of Christ's Kingdom will matter.
- The **day** of Christ will **reveal** the **quality** of each person's **work** (1 Cor. 3:5-15).
  - God's **fire** will **test** the quality of each person's work.
    - *Will my work last?*
  - Do everything with the **end in mind** and **you won't labour in vain**.
    - Do everything according to **God's Word** and not your **own**, and you will not labour in vain.
- See things in the light of that day.
  - **Live with eternity in mind**.
  - Walk each day with you **eyes on Zion**, knowing that you will soon stand before Christ's **judgment seat**.
    - It doesn't have to be a fearful day, a day of shame.
  - What matters to Jesus is that you **radiate him** and **help others radiate**.
    - The more you radiate, the **more souls** will come into Christ's Kingdom.
- One of Paul's greatest **fears** is **labouring in vain**.
  - A **builder** who spends a month building a house with no insurance, labours in vain if a fire destroys his work the day after he finishes.
  - How about a **librarian**? She spends weeks upon weeks putting books into alphabetical order. But she labours in vain if an earthquake hits, and shaking all the books to the floor.
  - What about a **gardener**? Who may work hard digging, planting and watering, but at harvest time pests come and eat all his tomatoes and herbs.

## 3) **Yoke** yourself to Christ when you become weary (Matthew 11:28-30).

- Everyone who is labouring in the Kingdom will get **weary**. The **runner** will **tire**. The **worshipper** will feel **poured out**.
- Even the **greatest saints** felt totally **exhausted** by their labourers.
  - It was in these times that they were tempted to **think** they **laboured in vain**. Their **feelings** easily took over. They even wanted their **lives** to **end**.
- *Can I show this in the lives of two people?* Both **Moses** and **Elijah** felt this way. Interestingly, they were both chosen by Jesus to be with him on the **Mount of Transfiguration**.
- **Moses** wanted to **die** (**Numbers 11:10-15**).
  - This was caused by the people wanting to turn **back**, their **grumbling** and **complaining**.
    - There's nothing that **drains a leader** like grumbling and complaining.
      - **Parents** are well aware of that.
  - *What was the answer?*
    - **Assistance** through Spirit-anointed and mature men.
    - **Reproducing** and empowering others.
- **Elijah** also wanted to **die** (1 Kings 19:1-4)
  - He had just won a major victory, but was now under fierce attack.
  - *How did God minister to him?*
    - I'll talk about that more next week.
- A **yoke** means **labour**. But, it means **Christ** is **with you** in the **labour**. Even more than that, it means that it is **Christ's labour**, and you're along for the ride (Matthew 11:28-30)

**Conclusion:** **Decide** to live in light of the day of Christ; **Assess** everything based on what will endure; and **Yoke** yourself to Christ when you become weary.