

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore
A Study in Philippians — June 3, 2020
Philippians 2:14-30

Read Philippians 2:14-18

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. **17** Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Verse 14

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

- When we grumble or complain, we are only vocalizing our discontent that things are not going OUR way.
- Have we truly submitted to the Lordship of Christ in EVERY aspect of our life?
- The example of the Israelites:
 - **Exodus 15**, grumbled because they didn't have their preferred choice of water.
 - **Exodus 16**, grumbled because they didn't have their preferred choice of food.
 - **Exodus 17**, grumbled because they were thirsty, not trusting or remembering how the Lord continued to provide.
 - **Numbers 14**, grumbled because they didn't like their situation and opted for slavery??
 - **Numbers 14**, due to their incessant grumbling and lack of faith, God brought judgement against them.
- God has provided His promises. We are to trust in Him!

Verse 15

15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

- In working out our salvation with fear and trembling, we seek to be...
 - “Blameless” = not perfect, but pure.
 - “Without Blemish” = without criticism.
 - Would anyone be able to bring up justifiable evidence/charges against you?
- Our world is crooked and twisted!
 - **Deuteronomy 32:4-5**, “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.”

- Our world is perverted and seeks its own way. It tries to legislate itself to morality, but only continues to fall deeper and darker into despair.
- Sin is sin. The Israelites were deemed crooked and twisted because of their unbelief. The same in Jesus' day. The same today.
 - **Ecclesiastes 1:8-9**, "All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun."
- Depravity knows no limit and is not satisfied, except under the authority of Jesus.
- We need to be that example of light and purity to the world around us. It is through our life, others will know Jesus.
 - **Matthew 5:14,16**, "You are the light of the world...In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Verse 16

16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

- Envision the Statue of Liberty
 - She's holding on to the tablet, representing freedom.
 - **Psalms 119:11**, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
 - At the same time, she lifts the torch of freedom for all to see.
 - "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
 - It is the Word of God we hold fast to, so we then shine the proper light of faith that is within.

Verses 17-18

17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. **18** Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

- **Romans 12:1**, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." **[reasonable service]**
- **1 John 1:3-4**, "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father

and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

Verses 19-24

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. **20** For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. **21** For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. **22** But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. **23** I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, **24** and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

- The Example of Timothy
 - “The submissive mind is not a luxury enjoyed by a chosen few; it is a necessity for Christian joy, and an opportunity for all believers.” (Warren Wiersbe)
 - The choice of the believer:
 - **Philippians 1:21**, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
 - **Philippians 2:21**, “For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

Verses 25-30

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, **26** for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. **27** Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. **28** I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. **29** So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, **30** for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

- The Example of Epaphroditus
 - He was burdened for Paul in his imprisonment... he came to him.
 - Burdened for the church in Philippi... he longed to be back with his church.
 - Burdened to do what was necessary for the sake of the gospel.
 - He was a sacrificial servant. He patterned his life after Jesus.
 - **Mark 10:45**, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- Both men operated under Paul’s leadership and example.
 - **1 Corinthians 11:1**, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
- Paul operated under the leadership and example of Christ.
 - **Mark 8:34**, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
- We are all called to operate under the authority of Jesus. Be obedient to His Word. Seek purity. Serve with humility.

Discussion Questions

1. What did God tell you?
2. What did God teach you?
3. What is God tasking you to do?
4. What is the difference between the world's philosophy of joy and the Christians?
5. "God works in—we work out." What does that mean in your everyday Christian life?
6. Why are both experience and teaching necessary in a Christian's training to serve the Lord?
7. Do you agree that we have "too many spectators and not enough participants" in the church today? Explain.