

DON'T GRUMBLE & ARGUE; SHOW CHRIST BY UNITY

Sunday, February 9, 2020 — Philippians series -- Msg 17 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

Philippians 2:12-18

English Standard Version (ESV)

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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.

BACKGROUND and CONTEXT:

- 1) Paul is dealing with the issue of unity/disunity in the Philippian church. (2:1-18)
- 2) Paul has just reminded the Philippians of the model they have in Christ Jesus. (2:5-11)
-- his condescension, his earthly life, death, resurrection and exaltation as Lord of All
- 3) In light of Christ's humiliation and exaltation, the Philippians, are to live out God's salvation of them by living in unity with one another through the example and power of Christ.
- 4) Verse 12-13 declare the great paradox of **our work** coinciding with **God's work** in our lives.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Augustine of Hippo (354AD - 430AD North Africa)

"Our deeds are our own because of free will producing them, and they are also God's because of his grace causing us to produce them. God makes us do what he pleases by making us desire what we otherwise would not desire."

Why do people grumble, complain and argue?

- 1) Because they are not content with others.
- 2) Because they are not content with their circumstance(s).
- 3) Because they are not content with themselves.
- 4) Because they are not content with God.

All of this results in selfishness. ('loud & proud' OR 'prim & proper' OR 'woe is me').

Selfishness is lonely and unsatisfying... and 'misery loves company'!

1) It is not God's will that His people grumble and argue. He will judge it.

Adam complained about Eve and blamed God for his own sin! Genesis 3:12

Cain complained that his punishment for killing Able was too severe. Gen 4:13-14

Israel complained over and over... Moses complained after deliverance from Egypt. Exodus 5:22-23

Israel complained about drinking water 3 days after God drowned the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. Ex. 15:23-27

Israel complained about a supposed lack of food. Exodus 16:1-50

Israel's spies complained they couldn't take the land God had promised. Numbers 13:30-33

Israel constantly complained against the Lord after all he had done. Psalm 78:40-41 (58); Ps. 106:24-26

The New Testament constantly calls God's people not to be grumbling complainers!

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.

1 Corinthians 10:8-11

8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

James 5:9

Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

2) All grumbling and complaining is ultimately against God because it indicates a lack of faith in Him. Philippians 4:11-14

Grumbling against other believers is especially grievous because they are God's children. James 2:13; 5:9 (above);

3) Grumbling, complaining and arguing destroys our witness to the world.

Why? Because...

God is a God of unity and right relationship. It's who he IS and what he DESIREs. In His grace, God is a reconciler. He brings together that which got separated. Grumbling and arguing does not reflect God or His ways. Grumbling and arguing reflects sin, selfishness and brokenness. Grumbling and arguing may indicate an absence of salvation. vs 16

4) Unity and humble cooperation shows off God's reconciling grace and power.

How? By...

Unity requires a power we don't possess within our fallen flesh. The power we lack in ourselves is the power of God's transforming love. When Christ makes us His own, we are given his humility, power and love. When the world sees that we truly love each other, they know we are His. John 13:34-35 -- *by this all men will know you are my disciples, that you love one another.*

5) Reasons to Stop Grumbling, Complaining and Arguing:

- A) for Believers' own sakes -- vs 15 *blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish*
- B) for the sake of Non-believers -- vs 15-16 *shine as lights in the world*
- C) for the sake of Pastors -- vs 16-18 for their joy and your own good. Heb. 13:17 *'the day of Christ' points to the judgment seat of rewards not punishment*
Phil. 1:6, 10; 2 Cor. 5:10