

Shining as Light in a Crooked and Perverse Generation

Philippians 2:12-18

OUTLINE

- I. *“How should we then live?”*
 - A. In light of our salvation.
 1. Getting our salvation is taking care of one of many essentials in life???
 2. Life is a plethora of pervasive demands vying for our attention.
 - B. But we can’t evade the question: *How should we then live?*
 1. We are to live as lights in a crooked and perverse generation (V. 15).

- II. As lights in the world...
 - A. We must begin with our salvation (V. 12).
 1. We must *“work out our salvation with fear and trembling”*.
 2. We all agree God has a standard of 100% righteousness.
 - a. We cannot live to that standard.
 - God does not lessen His standard to our inability to live up to it.
 3. We work OUT what God has worked IN us...our salvation.
 - B. It is God who works in us (V.13).
 1. He changes our wills to mesh with His.
 2. The result is that we act in a manner pleasing to Him.
 3. It is all for our good and for His pleasure.

- II. Lights played out.
 - A. By not grumbling or disputing/arguing (V. 14.).
 1. The more prosperous a culture (and individual) is, the more dissatisfied it becomes... it is in our sin nature.
 2. Grumbling is a result of “love for the self”.
 - a. A discontentment with what we think we *should* have and don’t.

3. Grumblers from the Bible: Adam, Cain, Moses, Israel.

“In reality, every complaint a believer makes...is against the Lord and is one of the ugliest of sins.” -- John MacArthur

III. Our attitude.

- A. Do ALL things without grumbling (V.14) = ALL things.
1. Regardless of our circumstances, we are to **rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS**.
- B. Grumbling & disputing.
1. **Grumbling** = A onomatopoeia = a word that means how it sounds.
 - a. When we grumble we are saying to God we are dissatisfied with Him: In our circumstances and lot in life.
 2. **Disputing** = angry thoughts that eventually result in grumbling.
- C. Why we should stop grumbling.
1. For our own good.
 - a. So that we will be *blameless, innocent, an above reproach child of God*.
 - *blameless* = not sinless but a life that cannot be currently criticized – right with God.
 - *Innocent* = Being pure, “unmixed” as in pure wine not mixed with water.
 - *Above reproach* = basically the same of blameless, blameless and innocent.
 2. For the sake of the lost.
 - a. We benefit from not grumbling, but it is mainly for the lost.
 - b. Two ingredients:
 - Our character: who we are.
 - Our content: the word of God.

Why? The world is crooked and perverse.

 - Crooked = *scolios* = Out of alignment with God.
 - Perverse = devious ways.
 3. For your pastor! (For those who have invested in your spiritual life.

BE LIGHT!

Shining as Light in a Crooked and Perverse Generation

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Sermon Notes

Last Sunday night I read a paragraph to the ethics class from a modern Christian classic by Francis Shaeffer "*How Should We Then Live*"... that title is obviously a question to be asked after something preceded it was presenting a problem, a situation that begs a response...

I would like to borrow Shaeffer's question for us this morning...in a different context than his book... but as a question all believers should ask themselves once they've become a Christian...you've realized you were a sinner in need of forgiveness of your sins...you realize you can't do it...

You need a Savior...salvation from your sins... you've repented from your sins... you've come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.. He is now your Lord...He's your Savior.. and you are now headed for an eternity with Him in glorious splendor.....

So in light of that truth..... *How should you/we then live?*

Do we say "*whew*" *got my eternity covered now I can work on my retirement plan....I can now focus completely on my career...*"...As if our salvation and the Christian life is just A PART of life that everyone needs to take care of like paying your taxes....

The idea that getting our salvation is taking care of one of many essentials in life.

You know there is some sort of maintenance involved with your new Christian life... so you go to church every Sunday unless the fish are biting or the Seahawks are playing... I am unapologetically being a little flippant this morning.... But I am trying to make a point.

We all can relate to the difficulty of proceeding in our Christian lives while at the same time taking care of the daily pressures of life... in our work, school, raising families, taking care of aging parents... squeezing in a little time for ourselves... a much needed vacation... So we tend to compartmentalize our lives...and we designate a portion of it to our Christian life.

Try to balance everything out... we try to include reading our Bibles in our days but that time disappears when something urgent pops up and demands our attention... we want to be devoted but so many things are crying out for and demanding our devotion....

Life is a plethora of pervasive demands vying for our attention.

But all of that... as real as it is... doesn't get us off the hook from answering the question... in light of your Christianity...in light of your new life in Christ..... *How should you then live?...* how is that spiritual reality in your life to play out in and through your life....ALL of your life?...maybe there should be a reprioritizing or some adjustments..... **Big Question!**

In chapter 2 of Philippians...The apostle Paul in verse 15 says this... ***so that you will be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, AMONG WHOM YOU SHINE AS LIGHTS.***

“So that you will be” is also pointing to something that precedes it... and we are headed there.... But notice what the apostle says of the believer in Christ... the child of God... the Christian... he says that you.... Are in the midst of **a crooked and perverse generation**...but this is who you are... this is what you are to be and to do... and this is the big answer to that question *How should I then live?.... we are to live as lights... in a very dark world.* ... we are to be light.... Representatives of the bright gospel of Jesus Christ in this crooked and perverse world.

So what does that look like?...Paul’s been showing us... but. let’s work our way through this passage... there is one main issue that stands out where we will be spending most of our time... but let’s work our way to it.... let’s begin in verse 12.

Read verse 12

Verse 12 also begins with a word that is referring to what was said before... **so then**...what was said before?... what we looked at last time... that amazing glorious passage about the humility of Christ... His coming down from heaven to earth as a man... 100% God but also 100% man with the mission to pay for our sins by dying on the cross....

And then the great ascension...the exaltation of Jesus (which we are anxiously awaiting to celebrate in three weeks on Easter!)... beginning with His resurrection and ascension... having victory over death seated at the right hand of God...IN LIGHT OF ALL THAT....

THEREFORE... SO THEN... **work out your salvation with fear and trembling.**

We begin with our salvation...Some have mistaken verse 12 to mean that you have to “*work to get your salvation*”...*you want to be saved?.. work it out!*... many Christians read this and think... this is a *self-help salvation* (James Montgomery Boice)...acknowledging that God has a standard of 100% righteousness...

But He knows that humans will never attain that...and therefore has made Himself content with something less.... Say 41% righteousness.... Or 63 % righteousness... that’s all ok as long as we are “working it all out!.. towards the unattainable goal of 100%.... and God is happy with that...

That of course is wrong!... **God does not lessen His standard to our inability to live up to it.**

It doesn’t say “*work for your salvation*” or “*work at your salvation*”... It says ***work OUT your salvation***... get this... important...**no one can work his salvation OUT unless God has already worked it IN....**

We work OUT what God has worked IN us...our salvation.

The very *moment* a person gets saved.... They really are not all that much different than before they were saved... before he was saved... He had problems... maybe he had relationship

issues... maybe he had a problem with being a selfish person...He most likely didn't know much about God...the moment he got saved.... All those things didn't just disappear and He became full of the knowledge of God.....No

What did happen the moment he was saved was that God gave him the Holy Spirit...the Holy Spirit residing in his heart... the power source for change... the power source for obtaining knowledge of God... the Holy Spirit is the great prompter... NOW he begins to realize things in his life need to change.

As he responds to the work of the Holy Spirit in his life... His life begins to change.... That is what it means to “**work out your salvation**”..... you've been saved.... Now let it come OUT from you into all that you do and who you are.... He had 100% salvation.... but his salvation begins to work its way **out** into his life.

Another amazing thing is verse 13...**[READ]**

Paul just finished telling *us* to work it out... then he tells us that it is God doing the work! **For it is God who is at work in you...** what is the work He's doing?... **both to will and to work for His good pleasure....**

God begins His work on our “wills”...our wills need rearranging and reconfigured...they've been centered on ourselves... so God begins reshaping our wills to mesh with His will... and as a result... we will begin to ACT in His good pleasure.... Our wills change, our actions change... GOD DOES THAT... THAT IS HIS WORK...and it is ALL for His pleasure..... our good, His pleasure.

So what are *we* working on?... if God is the one doing the work?... Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, we are the result of HIS work!...created in Christ Jesus for good works, we are the result of His work... He continues to work in us through the Holy Spirit... and we will produce good works! which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Our part?... walk!

James Boice says it this way...*these verse are really Paul's commentary on Philipians 2:12-13... they tell us that although God can never be satisfied with any good that comes out of human beings... He IS satisfied and pleased with the good that is done by Christians through the power of Jesus Christ within them.*

SO... we work out our salvation by having the work that is being done within us by the Holy Spirit come out into our lives in our daily walk!... and all of it is for God's glory...NOW.... The first thing Paul addresses for our working out is a problem all of us have to some degree... I'm pretty sure..... this is one major area **where our being lights plays out in our lives:**

Read verse 14

Grumbling and Disputing (Arguing)... [this may sound like a light subject... “*quit your grumbling...*”]

I am convinced that the more prosperous a culture is... the more self-indulgent the culture it is... the more dissatisfied it becomes... it grumbles... the more it disputes with others... the more it complains!

It is our human nature to not be satisfied with what we have...it doesn't matter how much we get... we will always want more... and if not restrained we will do what it takes to get whatever we want.... Notice who's at the very center of things?... ME!

One sociologist described Western Culture as *having a pathology of narcissistic self-indulgence*... in other words... we are like that legendary Greek youth Narcissus....if you know the story...

Narcissus looked into a pond one day and saw himself in the reflection... he fell furiously in love with... **HIMSELF!**... so much in love with himself that he couldn't take his eyes off the pond.... Pining over his own reflection which he rapturously loved... the sociologist point was...

We as a society have fallen so madly in love with ourselves... we over indulge ourselves... we live for ourselves... and as we continue to indulge ourselves.... We continue to be more and more discontent.... The more discontent... **the more we grumble**....it is so very narcissistic.

Our Narcissism casts us into deeper shadows of despair...

Having everything we need... we brood over what we don't have... and we grumble.... And complain... to the degree that we are never really satisfied!...*the world isn't working the way I want it to...* **A discontentment with what we think we *should* have and don't** results in grumbling.

This is nothing new... the Bible is full of grumblers...

The first grumbler was Adam... immediately after HE disobeyed God... He grumbled to the Lord that **the woman YOU gave me.. SHE gave me from the tree of life.... And I ate.**

Cain then grumbled... Moses grumbled... All of Israel grumbled and complained and complained... every day complaining as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years...*we're so sick of the food you've been sending us God...same ole.... Same ole....* The Psalmist Asaph wrote about this time in one of his Psalms... looking back at the grumbling Israel...(Psalm 78)

How often they rebelled against Him (God) in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert! Again and again they tempted God, and pained the Holy One of Israel... later in the Psalms... Psalm 106 They despised the pleasant land: they did not believe in His word, BUT GRUMBLED IN THEIR TENTS: they did not listen to the voice of the Lord.

Centuries later... the Apostle Paul himself wrote...[by the way, some have made a close comparison between Moses and Paul...] so...looking back at grumbling, complaining Israel... In

1st Corinthians 10:9-10 he wrote: **Let us not try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. NOR GRUMBLE as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.**

In that short book Jude... Jude warns of apostates who were **“GRUMBLERS” finding fault, following after their own lusts, they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.**

Do you see the patterns?... the common threads that run through these grumblers... these complainers?... **it's all about them!**...narcissistic!... It's all about *their* advantage in this world... they all think they are somehow owed something better!.... everyone in the Bible who complains has their eyes NOT ON THE LORD... but fixed on themselves!

So it is no wonder why scripture comes down hard on complainers... Because as John MacArthur said it in his commentary *In reality, every complaint a believer makes...is against the Lord and is one of the ugliest of sins*...Is that true?

If that is true a lot of us are in trouble!

The warnings in the New Testament seem to support that:

James 5:9 **DO NOT COMPLAIN brethren against one another... WHY?... so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold the judge is standing right at the door!**

There is judgement attached to complaining!...

1st Peter 4:9-10 **Be hospitable to one another WITHOUT GRUMBLING. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ...**

Philippians 2:14

(14) Do all things without grumbling and disputing... all things?.... I can't complain about ANYTHING?...What are the *all things*?...ALL THINGS!...It points back to verse 12:

...Work out your salvation with fear and trembling...

As we work out our Christian life... as we are being “sanctified”.. remember what that is?... basically becoming more and more Christ-like... WE ARE TO WORK ON THAT.... God provides the power and means to do so... but we have to do it....

While we are doing that... as we live our godly lives... we are to do it WITHOUT GRUMBLING...complaining undermines what we are doing!... There are such important attitudes for the Christian life spelled out for us in Philippians...

we are **to go through life joyfully**...rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice... **to be at peace with others**...live in harmony in the Lord... Be content with what you have and with what you don't have **always be content**...

Paul says here.... **Do all things without grumbling or disputing...** grumbling is a great word... it is one of those words that sound like what it means...onomatopoeia [ONO-MATO-PO-E-A].... *Grumble, grumble, grumble, grumble...* that's what it sounds like when you eavesdrop on people who are complaining!

The Greek word is even better!....goggusmus... goggusmus.... goggusmus!

There is nothing good about grumbling... it is completely selfish... don't get *complaining* confused with being *concerned*.... Complaining is making noise because **YOU DON'T LIKE SOMETHING**... concern is being anxious over the possible outcome of a situation... attached are hopes it will end well... grumbling is emotional dissatisfaction..

Disputing on the other hand is more *intellectual*...comes from the brain... more thought out... an inner reasoning... disputing can be a good thing... or a bad thing...it ends up being **thought out grumbling!** here... A person who grumbles all the time will eventually argue and dispute often with who they are grumbling about....grumbling with legs.

The thread that weaves through Philippians is that **every circumstance of life is to be WITHOUT MURMURING...COMPLAINT** ...if your circumstances are bad and you can change them change them but don't grumble about them... if you can't change them.... Be content and don't grumble....

We are to trust God in all things... grumbling means we are dissatisfied with Him... and we know better than Him.

Later Paul exemplifies this **I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am in**...that's obvious... remember Paul is writing this in prison... at any time a death sentence could land on him from Nero... He's chained 24/7 to a prison guard... he's not free to go anywhere... he's estranged from his churches...yet... there's not one grumble from Paul in this book!...not one "*boy the food here stinks!*"

In fact Philippians is called what?... The Epistle of Joy!

I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am in... I know how to get along in humble means, and I know how to live in prosperity; IN ANY AND EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE I HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF BEING FILLED AND GOING HUNGRY, BOTH OF HAVING ABUNDANCE AND SUFFERING NEED

So... specifically... **why should we stop complaining**.... Grumbling?... Paul gives us no less than three reasons in the next two verses:

Read verses (14) & 15

1. For your own good... there is a huge benefit in stopping your complaining... for your own good!... it begins with us...stop complaining so that you will be *blameless...innocent... an above reproach child of God (without blemish)*... what does all that mean?

First of all... it is a process... *you are proving yourselves to be*... which is the idea “of becoming something”... what are you becoming?... *blameless, innocent or s... and above reproach*...

What is being “blameless”?... it is simply *a life that cannot be criticized*... is there anything in your life that could be “criticized”?... now... all of you are immediately thinking of something you did that wouldn't make you happy if it was revealed to all of us!... none of us have lived “blameless” lives...in the sense of sinless lives...

In 1st Timothy 3... Paul lists the requirements of elders in the church... he says... *does any of you want to be an elder?*... GREAT!... *the first requirement is.... YOU MUST BE BLAMELESS!*...

It is a life that cannot be criticized now ... because of the blood of Jesus Christ, our past is forgotten... our sins are wiped clean...

To be blameless is to be living a life PRESENTLY that cannot be criticized... not that you don't sin... we all do... but that you are not living in that sin... *and that you have made yourself right before God in your sin*...you stay blameless by staying right with God!... that is blameless.... And obviously... there is a link between our grumbling and our being blameless!

And then there's “innocent”... we are in the process of becoming blameless and innocent...some say “harmless”... it's all about being pure... it is about being “unmixed”... being pure gold instead of a conglomerate of all sorts of things...

It is a term linked to good wine... good wine... biblical wine.... Jesus made the best wine at the wedding of Cana.... That wine would be “*innocent wine*”.... Pure wine not mixed with water... your life should not be mixed with good things and sinful things..... mixed.

God's desire is for His people to live lives that are pure... unmixed with the things of this world... sin... and be above criticism.... related to all that is **above reproach or without blemish**.... verse 15...

This means the same as being blameless... but it has the context of a sacrifice... an Old Testament sacrifice required that the animal being offered... the lamb.... as a sacrifice was without blemish or spot.... The picture of the true perfect sacrificial lamb of God, Jesus... *you don't offer anything to God that is not perfect.... Spotless.... Unmixed*... that is what “above reproach” means here.

Our goal in our Christian life should be and needs to be... offering up our lives... perfect and blameless to our God!.... and somehow.... Us sitting around grumbling all the time dirties that all up!... Romans 12 tells us we are **to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God.... What is acceptable to God?**...

Being blameless.... Innocent... above reproach.... Your grumbling stifles all of that!

Do you need a motivation?... 2nd Peter 3 gives us one... Peter is talking about the second coming of Jesus Christ... He's coming... He really is!.... Peter writes in verse 14... **therefore beloved,**

since you look for these things”... since you are looking for the coming day of the Lord... and we are.. right?

The day that Jesus Christ returns... couldn't be soon enough!... since you are waiting for that day... Peter writes... **be diligent to be found by Him in peace...spotless... and blameless...** in other words... you know that Christ is coming?... DO YOU KNOW THAT?... then clean up your life!...that should be a motivation.

We are to live in the light of the coming of Jesus Christ!... that is our greatest and only true motivation ... that means NO GRUMBLING...DISPUTING....NO COMPLAINING!... if you are sitting there grumbling... you're discontent...

2. For the sake of the Lost

You stop complaining and grumbling because it's good for you... but even more... it is very, very important for the lost... it says... **you are to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach IN THE MIDST OF A CROOKED AND PERVERSE GENERATION...** Now get this... **AMONG WHOM YOU APPEAR AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD...HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE...**

It's not all about you!... yes... you will benefit from a life without complaining... but ***you will further the kingdom of God***... the kingdom of God is God's children... everyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is adopted into the kingdom of God as God's OWN children!... that's incredible!

But you are now called to be LIGHTS in this dark world... sharing and REPRESENTING the gospel to the lost... shedding light into darkness... this is our evangelistic mandate... this is our mission that God has given to us the moment we were saved... you have your salvation... you are in His kingdom... NOW GO AND SHARE THE WORD TO EVERYONE ELSE!

Evangelism is basically... a matter of God's children... Shining as lights in this dark world!... and for us to do that in a way that glorifies God... a way that is effective... has two ingredients in the mix... **1. OUR CHARACTER**... and... **2. OUR CONTENT**.

Some say.. .PERSONALITY and Proclamation.... Listen to this.... It is not JUST what you say... it is also WHO YOU ARE!...

A most important term... Paul borrows it from Moses back in Deuteronomy 32:5.... Moses was speaking to a messed up Israel... they had left God... other little “g” god's had crept in... they were following their impulses..... they of course were grumbling!

Moses preaches to them.... **You are no more the children of God.... For you are a crooked and perverse nation...** Crooked and perverse.... What's that like?... well... CROOKED comes from the Greek word SKOLIOS.... We get the word SKOLIOSIS from it... ever hear that word?... it's an illness... “*scoliosis of the spine*”... curvature of the spine.

It is the idea of literally “*being bent out of shape*”... *out of alignment*... it is the idea that **God is our standard**... **God is the plumb line which we align our lives to**... SKOLIOS means we’ve decided to go “OUT OF ALIGNEMENT”...that’s what crooked means...

Then there is the word PERVERSE....

Proverbs 2:15 uses this word in the Septuagint.... Describing those who stray from God... *their paths are crooked and they are devious in their ways*... when you deviate from the path of God... it is extremely twisted and distorted.... That is PERVERSE.

We don’t have to go further than just this last week to see evidence of a morally, ethically deteriorating crooked and perverse society....How did we ever get to the place where in the process of interviewing a prospective Supreme Court judge the question “*Can you provide us what a definition of a woman?*” would get the answer “*No I can’t...I’m not a biologist*” and then cause a firestorm.

Or the measure in Florida that also caused a firestorm that says *Florida would prohibit instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity from kindergarten to third grade and ban it in later grades if not “age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students.*

Those words caused a huge firestorm in our culture...

Are those crooked?.... do they bend God’s standards set out in His Word?....do they pervert God’s law?

You.. we are in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation!...BUT we are not to spend our time grumbling about it...concerned YES... but grumbling NO... YOU and ME ARE TO BE LIGHT TO THEM!... and we are NOT light if we are always grumbling.

I have to admit I have a problem not grumbling when I see how God’s law is being dismantled throughout our society...I don’t know about you... but it would suit me just fine if God took me out of this world and home with the Lord!... AMEN?.... But Jesus said in John 17... addressing this very topic... **I’m not going to ask You (God) to take them (Christians) out of the world.... I’m going to ask You to keep them IN THE WORLD!**

Why keep us in the world?.... to be lights!... the entire culture has deviated from God’s standards... it is more distorted and twisted than ever!... today... we watch the news and the thinking is so twisted... so convoluted... and this passage is telling us....don’t complain about it... We are to be light in this!

The word for light means “we are to shine”... “you must shine”... what that entails is NOT just what you say... but WHO YOU ARE!... we are the only light many will ever see... what do they see?.....

Do they see someone who says they follow Christ.... The greatest of light.... Yet their life reveals a conflicting message?...,... that’s what complaining does!.... “*I am a child of God... I believe in Jesus Christ.. He is my Lord and Savior... but I spend the next six hours complaining*

*about the liberals...or the republicans. .. complaining about how our country is going to pot.....
how I was disrespected....*

A word about a “**crooked and perverse generation**”.... It has ALWAYS been crooked and perverse!... I just finished reading a new book by Robert Mecham called *The Soul of America*... not necessarily recommending it.... But what it revealed was that America has ALWAYS been a crooked and perverse generation!

It doesn't matter what side of the isle you are sitting... since the beginning of our country... we have been fighting the same issues!.... The times are not as “unique” as we might like to think!... racial concerns...we thought we had those licked at the end of the civil war... NOT.

Putting up the Statue of Liberty did not end immigration issues...

Size of government... redistribution of wealth...how much should Government be involved?...
OLD... OLD SUBJECTS!.... *yet the number one subject of our grumbling!....is all of it!*

And what does the unsaved public hear of the Christian?... LIGHT?.... The gospel?.... or... how we were offended by what was on CNN on Thursday night...how FOX news will introduce the antichrist....

the people sitting within earshot of you at Applebee's.... And Subway have an ear on you!... did they hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?...is that the subject that drives your conversations?... because you are so passionate about Jesus and His gospel?.....or do they hear grumbling!....

how can we be used as an instrument of light when we are so preoccupied with our temporary.... soon to be turned to dust... political platforms?...Have we embraced THIS world to that extent?.... we are to shine....

[Cockroaches and Moths... the church at night when the light was turned on... some of us who proclaim to be Christians are so seldom light that the cockroaches don't mind being in our presence!]

F.B. Meyer: *These thoughts press on one's heart that one can never speak a word, never transact a piece of business that one's face is never seen lighted up with the radiance of God or clouded and despondent without being made harder or easier for other men to live a good life.*

We affect the lives of others!.... NO MAN LIVES TO HIMSELF AND NO MAN DIES TO HIMSELF..... Romans 14:7

3. For the sake of your pastor!

This last point I know you will think I bent the rules... But... as a review.... We are to stop grumbling for 1. Ourselves... 2 The lost... 3... get this.... FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PASTOR!... I love it!.... I didn't make it up!... It's here! In the Bible!

Read verse 16

IN THE DAY OF CHRIST.... Interesting term... you may get it confused with the **Day of the Lord...** they are two different terms.... The day of the Lord is a day we will not have to experience if you are in Christ....the day of the Lord is for the unsaved... those who've rejected Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.... It is the day of judgement for the unbeliever.... NOT GOOD!....

That should be a motivating factor in not grumbling!.... you don't want your disgruntledness with the world... with the way things are... be the thing people around you remember!... you should desperately want them to share with you THE DAY OF CHRIST!!!.... that is the day for believers!.... a great... great... great day!

Nothing would please your pastor more than to have him know that after he has preached.... It wasn't in vain... NOT FOR EARTHLY RECOGNITION!...this isn't pride here!.... but for the JOY of knowing you will be with me!.... My preaching was not a waste of time.... I DIDN'T TOIL IN VAIN!

This is NOT egotistical... this is truly the very best of outcomes!... what Paul is saying is.... *"I love God with all my heart....soul... mind and strength.... I live this life to serve my Lord.... I live for one reason... to glorify my God... so the more effective my service for Him has been in this world.... The greater my capacity to glorify Him will be in the world to come.*

It is the idea of sharing our faith to the fullest... sharing in the joy that comes with being found in Christ.... Together....

Read verses 17-18

Isn't it wonderful to be in the presence of one who does not grumble and dispute?... we have those here!... there are people in this room that I've never heard complain!.... not once!.... they usually wear a smile on their face... not a smirk but a smile! (not they're not concerned!)

They are the ones who are truly content... at peace with what God has placed in their lives... not worried that the world is so messed up that it will never be straightened out!... not obsessed with the conditions in Washington D.C....

But completely confident that God is in complete control... and that grumbling is a complaint against God that He isn't controlling right!... what a delight these people are!

Don't grumble!.... Don't complain for the sake of yourself... so that you will be found blameless, innocent and above reproach.....

Don't grumble for the sake of the lost!... be light in this dark world..... this crooked and perverse nation...

Don't grumble.... For the sake of your pastor! AMEN?

Be light!