

## Philippians 2:14-18

### Grumble and Make People Stumble, or Shine and Show Them God's Design

#### Rootwork

1. **(Everyday)** Before you begin your study time - spend time in prayer! Go through your “yesterday” and ask the Lord to reveal your heart! Prepare your heart and surrender your will to the Spirit of God! Allow Him to have full access by not withholding anything He wants to do in and then do through you!! Make a conscious effort to bow your will and your obedience to the Lord before you even dive in! This prepares your heart to hear and to heed everything He speaks to you!
2. **(Everyday)** Then spend time in adoration and worship after you have cleansed your heart and before you dive into the scriptures!! Proclaiming who God is and adoring Him lifts our eyes up and keeps our focus on what really matters...putting God in His rightful place and putting us in ours! Remember, the enemy is going to try to keep you from being in the Word, he hates when we worship our God- Worship breaks his bondages over believers, so submit to God, resist him and he will flee!!
3. If you were at the “Digging Deeper Workshop” and you would like to structure these scriptures, Copy and paste Philippians 2 into a word/ pages document or write it out verse by verse, following the structuring handouts you received!(if you have not done so already) If you were not there and want to watch it, search “Digging Deeper” on our website or app and watch it for tools to help you in your study time!

4. **(Everyday)** After you finish your Rootwork every day, be sure to spend time in prayer (ACTS) going through what you have learned and received from the Word of God! This is also in your “Digging Deeper” handout!
5. Before we begin, review the first 13 verses in Philippians 2. What is the purpose of what Paul is writing here?
6. Read Philippians 2:1-18 together so you see them in context. Focus on verses 14-18 and mark any repeated words, and look up every word you want more insight on in your Blue Letter Bible app. If you need help at all with this, please let me know!
7. See if you can come up with your own section theme for these verses!
8. Read verse 14-15, why do you think the Lord would say that NOT grumbling and disputing would be the things that would show that we are blameless, innocent children, above reproach and that we would shine?
9. What does “Do all things...” mean?
10. If you did not do so already, look up the words “grumbling” and “disputing” what do you find? How does this give you further insight on the meaning and the attitudes of each word?

11. Notice how both definitions talk about the silent debating and inward arguing! So it is not just what comes out of our mouths that matters, it is also the silent and inward discontent and dissatisfaction that hinders our lives and our effectiveness as Christ followers. Do you struggle with this? How? What steps do you need to take in order to allow the Spirit of God to change your heart?
12. Look up Numbers 14:2, 1 Cor. 10:10-11 and Exodus 14:10-12 and record how this explained the attitude of the Israelites and how did God feel about it?
13. What does your thought life look like when you are grumbling and disputing?
14. What does grumbling and disputing reveal about our hearts? We discussed 4 different things that it reveals, write those things down and then think for a bit about your own life, what has this thought life produced in your own life? What does this reveal about your heart personally?
15. What is the difference between grumbling and complaining and sharing honestly what is going on in your life and seeking counsel?
16. In order to shine like lights, we must first have the right attitude! How true is that?! Well, how is your attitude? In general, think back over the last few weeks, how has your attitude been?
17. What message does a murmuring, complaining, grumbling Christian convey to an unbeliever? What message, or what benefit does it add to believers?

18. We discussed that the top two reasons (according to Barna Group study) people are hindered from converting to Christianity are “authenticity” and “lack of passion”. What do they mean and how have you personally seen these being a hinderance?
19. We covered 4 reasons that grumbling and disputing are a deterrent not only for unbelievers but also for believers. What were they and can you think of more to add to the 4? Explain your answers!
20. Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, what is God’s will for you instead of grumbling and complaining?
21. According to John 14:27a, what draws the unbeliever?
22. So, in place of murmuring, disputing, grumbling, and complaining , how does verse 15 tell us how we are to be seen in the midst of a perverse and crooked generation?
23. How are we to shine?
24. Explain how these words signify the purity of believers?
25. How will the mind of Christ (v.5) enable you to live out verses 14 and 15?
26. As our world gets darker and darker, how important is it that we do not hinder the ability for God to shine through us?
27. What things hinder Him from shining?

28. We need to be alert and aware of the evil that surrounds us in this crooked and perverse generation. We need to be ready for the darker it gets, the more people that will be looking for light! How have you seen this to be true even in the last few months?
29. According to what you have learned in this lesson, what is your responsibility as a Christian?
30. What does light do? List as many things as you can think of, and then see how they apply for us as a believers? Why do you think the Lord uses light as an example for us?
31. Look up the following verses and record all the references to light that you see. Record next to each what you glean from them and how to apply them. Then do a search for as many verses as you can find on light and record what your learn about them!
- Daniel 12:3
  - Matthew 5:13-16
  - Acts 13:47
  - Ephesians 5:8
  - 1 John 1:5-7
  - Psalm 119:105
  - 2 Cor. 4:6
32. Read verse 16, “holding fast to the Word of life” is similar to offering a life preserver to a drowning man. How do we hold fast and hold forth the word of life?

33. A believer's pure, shining witness would give Paul two reasons for rejoicing in the day of Christ (the return of the Lord) what were they?
34. When you read verse 16, what did you think Paul had in mind when wrote about running and toiling in vain? If you have not looked up these words in your Blue Letter Bible app, do that now!
35. Read verses 17-18. This describes the sacrificial life of Paul and the Philippian believers. The phrase "offering upon the sacrifice" refers to the drink offering poured upon the sacrifice in Numbers 15:5-10. Paul was saying their work was the sacrifice and his possible death was the drink offering! Read Numbers 15:5-10 and record what you find on this! Does this help you to understand what Paul is talking about here? How does this perspective challenge you?
36. Read Romans 12:1 and compare it to verse 17. Record what you find! How does this clarify and challenge you personally?
37. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 slowly! Copy and paste or write these verses out and separate them so you do not miss one word! Look up any words you want further insight on. Write out the significance of this "death bed" message Paul gives! This is what he left as his last message! How important are these words? What do you learn personally from these verses? How do they challenge you and your walk?
38. Sacrifice always involves a cost. What does it cost you to be a follower of Christ?

39. Paul knew where he was going and he lived like it! He was determined to be used to the fullest capacity until his last breath!! Do you live like that? Is that your motivation? If not, what hinders you and why? Do you want that to change? Are you willing to lay whatever hinders you down? If so, do that now! This will be the beginning of freedom for you! Praise God for His constant love and grace to you!!
40. What then was he urging the church of Philippi to do? What does he urge us to do?
41. Now compare that with verse 14. It is the complete antithesis of grumbling and complaining! What cancels out a critical perspective? What cancels out internal arguing and silent debating? Dissatisfaction and discontentment?
42. There is no better time then now to focus on thankfulness and rejoicing in ALL THINGS!! As mentioned in Bible study, write a list of all the things that the Lord has brought to your mind that you have been grumbling and complaining about. List the situation and why you have been resentful, inwardly debating and discontent about them. Then I want you to find something about that situation to praise God for! Thank Him and worship Him for those things. Then cancel out the reasons to be complaining with the reasons to be thankful!! This will help not only change your heart, but it will teach your mind how to think right...how to truly have joy no matter the circumstances. Then every time you are tempted to grumble and complain again, you can pull out this list and turn your murmuring into rejoicing!! Then my sweet friend, you will shine like the stars in the heaven, being blameless, innocent and above reproach!!