No Complaints (Philippians 2:14)

Tony Mauck · Philippians 2:12–16

INTRODUCTION

- Some of the best sermon material that I think about comes from my own personal experiences and struggles that I have.
- Do not get drunk with wine. For that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.
- And so the extremes that I want to talk to you about tonight are gratitude versus grumbling.

1 Do All Things Without Grumbling or Disputing

Philippians 2:12–16

- Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.
- What stands opposed to the accomplishment of that task is the problem of grumbling or disputing.
- Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God, above reproach, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

2 Is It Possible to Change?

- It calls us to a radical change, that we no longer be consumed with ourselves, but consumed with the Lord who has saved us and his will for us.
- And thus working out our salvation is going to require and necessitate change.
- People don't change. Can I? Will I? Will you? You can. If it is true that you cannot change, then the Bible has no meaning at all.
- It is not wrong to point out less than ideal things. This passage is certainly not saying, well, don't mention sin because that's negative.

3 Grumbling Denies God's Goodness

James 1:17; 1 Corinthians 10; Numbers 14

- Complaining pulls down the shade so that we cannot see the magnificent kindness and lavish gifts that God has bestowed upon us.
- Every time there is murmuring and complaining from this point on someone dies.
- God expects his covenant people to be finished with a cranky attitude and fighting behavior. They will keep you from the promises of God.
- Contentment is found in knowing God and his will, and trusting in him to provide.

4 What We Have That Should Limit Our Complaining

Matthew 23

- We possess saving truth. How wonderful is that?
- As a result of knowing truth, we have come into a relationship with God.
- We have a lot to be thankful for. Instead of murmuring about what is less than ideal.
- Take inventory of all the good things in your life, and you won't be so likely to complain and murmur quickly.

5 When We Grumble We Disturb, Discredit and Discourage

- When we grumble, we disturb our relationship with others.
- If all we ever do is complain about the less than ideal in our lives, then why would anyone around us want what we have?
- When we are continually negative, we discourage others. We cause them to feel like things aren't what they should be.
- So we discredit our testimony to unbelievers and we discourage God's workers.

6 How to Defeat Complaining

Philippians 2:14

- Change the negatives to positives. Focus on the things we get to do, not the things we have to do.
- Maybe we ought to try some of that, but observe a complaining fast.
- Turn complaints into solutions. Instead of decrying how terrible everything is, look for some solutions to the problems and then thank God more.
- Be more thankful. Memorize Philippians chapter 2 and verse 14.

THE CHALLENGE

Understand that if we are in the Lord, that our lives are greatly blessed.

MY NOTES