

Philippians 2:14-18

- 1) Paul gives a clear command—2:14¹⁴ *Do all* (emphatic) *things without ...*
 - a) External emphasis—*grumbling [goggusmos]*—expressing dissatisfaction, speculation, or skepticism of someone; circulating one's viewpoints and discontent in a suppressed manner to promote ill will instead of harmony and good will
 - i) Found in Ex. 16:7-9, 12; 17:3; Num. 11:1; 14:27, 29; 16:41; 17:5, 10
 - ii) In the NT it is often used in grumbling against leadership
 - (1) Noun—John 7:12; Acts 6:1; 1st Pet. 4:9
 - (2) Verb—Matt. 20:11; Luke 5:30; John 6:41, 43, 61; 7:32; 1st Cor. 10:10
 - b) Internal emphasis—*and arguing [dialogismos]*—doubting, judging, or disputing the thoughts, ideas, or opinions of another; intellectual rebellion that challenges instead of joyfully submitting
 - i) Context determines if this is negative or positive. This use is clearly negative.
 - c) This is part of working out their salvation with fear and trembling (cf. 2:12)
 - 2) Paul explains his reason for the command—2:15-16
 - a) Related to one's reputation among the unsaved—¹⁵ *so that [hina] you^{pl} may be ... in the midst of a perverse and distorted generation*, (cf. LXX of Deut. 32:5)
 - i) *blameless [amemptos] and pure [akeraios]*,
 - (1) Without guilt and innocent (like unmixed wine)
 - ii) *children [teknon] of God without blemish [amometos]*
 - (1) God's born ones, bearing the family resemblance, without blame
 - b) Present reality of living in the sphere of darkness—*among [en] whom^{pl} you^{pl} are shining as lights in the world*, (cf. LXX of Dan. 12:3)
 - i) What is part of shining as lights?¹⁶ *while holding on to the word of life*,
 - (1) Some see this as evangelism: holding forth or presenting the Word.
 - ii) What will be a result of shining as lights?—*so that I may boast in the day of Christ that I have run in vain nor labored in vain*, (cf. 1:6, 10; 3rd John 1:4)
 - (1) Cf. Christ in Is. 49:4
 - (2) This is not “look what I have done” but rather “look what God has done.”
 - 3) Paul desires his joy to be shared—2:17-18¹⁷ *But ...*
 - a) Paul's joy is expressed—*I am glad [chairo] and am rejoicing with [sugchairo] you^{pl} all.*
 - i) *even if* (1st class condition, assumed true) *I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your^{pl} faith*,
 - (1) Cf. Num. 15:5-10; 28:7; 2nd Tim. 4:6. The drink offering symbolized complete dedication to the Lord, that what was poured out was irreclaimably in the service of Yahweh. (Harmon)
 - (2) Their sacrifice of faith is what Paul's drink offering is poured out upon.
 - b) Their joy is commanded—¹⁸ *And for the same reason you^{pl} (emphatic) also should be glad [chairo] and be rejoicing together with [sugchairo] me.*

The reality of what God has done for us in Christ does not absolve us of the responsibility to work hard at our spiritual growth. (Harmon)