

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 9-10, 2002

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"Stop Complaining"

Philippians 2:14-16

Paul's first concern is that they work out their salvation (Philippians 2:12-13).

Paul's second concern was that they would do all things without grumbling and disputing (Philippians 2:14-16).

"Grumbling" (GOGGUSMON) involves quiet verbal expressions of discontent or displeasure accompanied by feelings of annoyance or anger.

The word "disputing" (DIALOGISMOS) literally means "through reasoning" but because of the immediate context the word is translated "disputing" (NAS) or "arguing" (NIV).

The first reason for the church to do all things without grumbling and disputing is that it might function as a beacon of light to a faithless world (Philippians 2:15-16a).

How does doing "all things without grumbling and disputing" put us in a position to fulfill our function? It renders us as the children of God blameless, innocent and above reproach.

Blameless (AMEMPTOS) means "unblamed."

Innocent (AKERAIOS) means "unmixed" and when referring to people it carried the notion of simplicity of character, purity, or sincerity.

The word "reproach" (AMOMOS) means "unblemished."

Within the New Testament, the term is employed to portray what believers are or should be in God's sight.

Being blameless, innocent and above reproach in this area of speech sets us apart from the world in such a unique way that it will very likely capture the world's positive attention.

The word "crooked" (SKOLIOS) means "curved, something out of proper alignment."

The word "perverse" (DIASTREPHO) means "severely twisted or distorted."

If we will simply obey this command we will stand out from the world around us in the same way as the moon and stars stand out in the night sky.

If we fail to set ourselves apart from the world by the way we live then we should question whether we are "in the midst of" or "a part of" the crooked and perverse generation (Deuteronomy 32:3-5).

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We know that we are holding fast the word of life when we are putting ourselves in the position to be God's beacon of light to a faithless world (Philippians 2:15-16a).