

### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Psalms 34:1–3 | Ephesians 5:15–21 | Romans 12:3–8

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 10.13.24

### SUMMARY

Paul continues to implore the church at Philippi in the theme of sanctification with an imperative to “Do all things without grumbling or disputing” (v. 14). The word for grumbling implies a secret sort of murmuring—a complaining under one’s breath. Paul’s instruction is rooted in the idea that when we murmur with one another, we assault the unity within the body of Christ; we are tearing apart what God has brought together. Beyond the internal damage grumbling can cause, Paul provides a second reason for the church to refrain from it—so that the light of Christ may shine through believers in our “crooked and twisted generation” (v. 15). Our behavior—the way we conduct ourselves with fellow believers—serves as a witness to a lost world. This conduct among believers Paul identifies with “the word of life,” a self-sacrificing reflection of Jesus’ behavior, which we are to “hold fast” and even hold *forth* as the gospel both possesses and gives life (v. 16). Paul desires that the church behave as he instructs, not for his own sake, but ultimately for the sake of Christ who will be glorified “in the day of Christ” (v. 16).

Paul then likens his trials and imprisonment to a “drink offering,” which was a sacrifice the priest poured on top of an animal sacrifice. As the wine vaporized, the steam rose upward, symbolizing the rising of the sacrificial offering to God (v. 17). Paul gladly sacrifices himself for the sake of the church. In like manner, he encourages the church to do the same for one another—live sacrificially for each other as Christ did so for us (v. 18).

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Philippians 2:14–18.

What situations cause you to grumble? How might you keep yourself from grumbling, and how might you glorify God in those instances instead?

Name some practical ways of being a medium of joy from the Lord to others. How can we live sacrificially for the sake of our brothers, sisters, and neighbors?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.