

All In for Gladness

Philippians 2:14-18



-- We live in a culture of *Complaining*.

- Rather than bending our preferences to accommodate life, we routinely expect everything to bend in order to accommodate us.
- The more we expect, the more we complain. The more we complain, the less we honor Christ and experience true joy.

Big Idea: To grow in Christ we must overcome complaining.

- In this text, there is a command and a consequence. The command is in verse 14. The consequences are in verses 15-18.

-- Gladness is an indispensable for spiritual growth.

- There are two types of people in the world: People who change and people who complain.
- Whereas gladness is gateway to growth, complaining is a chain that chokes us.

v. 14

- “*complaining*” – This describes the emotional aspect of complaining.
- “*arguing*” – This describes the intellectual aspect of complaining—a constantly critical spirit.

-- God warns against complaining throughout *Israel's* history.

- Exodus 16-17 – Immediately after God miraculously delivers Israel from Egypt through the Red Sea, Israel begins complaining.
- Numbers 13:30-14:3
 - v. 13:32-14:2 – Complaining is contagious.

- As toxic as complaining was with God's people then, it remains just as toxic among God's people today.
- God's hatred for complaining is seen in His **Wrath** upon grumblers in Scripture (Numbers 11:1, 14:32-37, 1 Cor. 10:10-12).

-- All griping is ultimately griping against **God (Exodus 16:8).**

-- To gripe about our circumstances is to stand in judgment of God's providential will.

-- God despises complaining because it reveals a lack of **Trust in Him.**

-- When we complain, we assume that what we want is better than what God wants for us.

-- God despises complaining because it reveals an unwillingness to **Submit to His providential will.**

-- When we argue and dispute, we arrogantly assume that our plan and purposes are superior to God's.

-- God despises our complaining because it reveals self-exalting pride.

-- Complaining almost always results from the belief that we deserve better than we are getting.

-- The cure to complaining begins with the realization that what we really deserve is **Hell** (Lamentations 3:39).

-- The worst we will suffer in this life is not a fraction of what we deserve.

-- Gladness is **Grace understood.**

-- The better we understand the infinite worth of God's grace, the less it makes sense to complain (Psalm 40:16, Psalm 149:4-6).

Conclusion

-- Gladness is **Essential to spiritual growth, and to grow in Christ, we must first overcome complaining.**

-- Challenge: Keep careful track of your grumbling, complaining, and arguing this week.

-- Most of us are sure to discover a challenge for change.

-- Some of us may very well discover a lifestyle of grumbling that has been suffocating our spiritual growth.