

All In for Gladness

Philippians 2:14-18



Big Idea: Gladness is essential to Christian witness.

1.) Gladness is essential to growth (last week, v. 14).

2.) Gladness is essential to **Godliness** (v. 15a).

-- **My complaining harms Me.**

-- Complaining isn't just bad; it's bad for you.

-- "...become..." – Growth in godliness (sanctification) is a process.

-- Complaining short-circuits sanctification.

-- Complaining shifts our focus from God's eternal grace to our temporary grumbles (Hebrews 12:2-3).

-- Complaining shifts our perspective from that of humble servants to that of imperious judges.

-- Complaining shifts our attitude from thankfulness to entitlement.

-- **My complaining harms Others.**

-- "Pure" here means "innocent" or "harmless."

-- As much damage as we do to ourselves by complaining, the damage we do to others is even worse.

-- **Complaining harms others by **Obscuring** the Gospel.**

-- Complainers urge others to focus on failures and forget about Christ (Philippians 4:8).

-- Complainers miss Christ's call to be encouragers (Hebrews 3:12-13).

-- **Complaining harms others by **Misrepresenting** the Gospel.**

-- Christians who complain are unwittingly testifying that the Gospel isn't good enough (2 Peter 1:3-4, Psalm 73:25-26).

-- To live lives innocent lives, we must overcome complaining.

3.) Gladness is essential to **Evangelism** (v. 15b-16a).

-- Glad Christians make great ambassadors.

-- Believers who never **Complain** shine brightly for Christ.

-- “... children of God...” – Glad believers resemble our Father in Heaven.

-- “... without fault in a crooked and depraved generation...” – Glad believers avoid being a stumbling block to others.

-- “... in which you shine like stars in the universe...” – Glad believers stand out brilliantly in a whiny world (Matthew 5:14-16).

-- Believers who never complain **Adorn** the Gospel.

-- “... as you hold out the word of life...”

-- The Word of God—and in particular, the Gospel of Jesus Christ—is “the word of life” (Romans 1:16).

-- Paul is urging the importance of **Gladness** in communicating the Gospel (Psalm 107:21-22).

-- Complaining has never converted anyone, but gladness makes the Gospel glimmer.

-- Paul does not command gladness for its own sake but for the sake of the Gospel going forward.

-- Gladness without the **Gospel** is hollow and deceptive.

Summary

-- Jesus Christ and His Gospel are the source of real gladness.

-- Adorning the Gospel is an urgent motivation to be glad in Christ.