

**PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)
PROGRAM 12 (#912097)
WEEK 3 (#912320)
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SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)

TITLE: Program 12 – No More Grumbling!

TUESDAY

OPEN

Do you know anybody, anybody that is constantly murmuring, constantly complaining? I mean they're always muttering something underneath their breath. And when you look at them, you know they ain't happy. And if they ain't happy they don't want anybody else to be happy because they're going to let you know why they aren't happy. You've heard that saying, "If Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." Well Mama or Papa, are you happy? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

I want you to know, beloved, as we open the book of Philippians that God is not happy when there is murmuring and when there is grumbling, when there is disputing. It grieves God, and you and I need to understand that, because it is so easy to get in a mode of just complaining. I mean things aren't going your way or you don't like this person or they're irritating you

and that irritation builds and builds and builds until finally you can't even stand the way they chew their food. And you look at them and you begin to murmur, you begin to dispute, or you're sitting in church and you're listening to the pastor, and you're really not happy and so you begin murmuring and you begin complaining. And you know what? It just wrecks the harmony. It wrecks the unity. And what Philippians is all about is living in harmony with one another, living in the unity and the encouragement and the love, everything that we find in Jesus Christ. Philippians is all about Christ being exalted in our body whether by life or by death. Philippians is all about you and I having a love that abounds more and more. It's about being sincere without cracks, what you get and what you see and what you get is like Christ. That's what Philippians is all about. And so as we look at Philippians, chapter 2, as we look at that centerpiece, that doctrinal masterpiece on the incarnation of Jesus Christ and the fact that He is God. And the fact that He, as God, [humbled Himself, had this attitude, had this mindset of becoming a servant, so that He might become obedient even obedient to the point of death on a cross.] (PARAPHRASE Philippians 2:8) As we look at that we've got to see and watch Jesus and know that He didn't murmur and He didn't complain and we're not to do murmuring and complaining either. We're to be like Jesus. So in Philippians, chapter 2 we come in verse 12 and we looked at this in our last lesson. **"So then, my beloved...,**" we made great tracks, we covered two verses. **"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now in my absence...,**" he says, **"I want you to work out...,**" carry out to completion, **"...your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to [do] of His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling and/or disputing."** (Philippians 2:12-14) Now this word do is in the present tense. And what He's saying is, hey, this is your habit of life. Not only are you to allow Me to work out your salvation through you by my giving you the desire to be like Me, and the ability to be

like me, but if you're going to be like Me, then you are not to do murmuring; you are not to do disputing. It is not in your job description. That's the job description of the world. That's the job description of the children of the devil, but it's not the job description of the children of God. And so he makes it very, very clear. Now watch what he says. He says, **"Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God..."** now watch, **"...above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine, you appear as lights in the world."** (Philippians 2:14-15) Now listen, if you're going around, if you're going around murmuring, if you're going around disputing, I mean constantly quarreling, constantly arguing, constantly debating, I mean everything that's said you don't like, and if you're going around like that honey, you're living like the devil. Sir, you are playing on the wrong team and you are about to score a touchdown for the wrong team. You're running towards the wrong goal. Stop! Turn around and run this way because you're headed in the wrong direction. You and I are to live, in the midst of this crooked and perverse generation, a blameless life. Now blameless simply means it is to be above reproach. It does not mean that you and I are going to be perfect, so go, "Phew, I am so glad it doesn't mean that." It doesn't mean that you and I are going to be perfect, although God says, **"Be ye perfect, even as I am perfect..."** (Matthew 5:48, KJV) The word perfect there is telios and it means be mature, grow up. And when a person is constantly murmuring and disputing they haven't grown up. When a person is constantly murmuring and grumbling and disputing and arguing and contesting then it shows that life is all about them and they ain't happy, and because they ain't happy, ain't nobody going to be happy. And that's not the way it's to be with us. Because our happiness, so to speak, our contentment does not rest on circumstances. It rests on the fact that the One that is in us is to be honored and the One that is in us is to be glorified, no matter what the circumstances. Circumstances

are not to shape us; we are to live in such a way that we override the circumstances. So watch what he says. You say, “This is awfully hard. Do you realize how hard you are?” I want to tell you something, it’s not me, it’s the Lord. It’s the Word of God. And it is not hard. Remember what we saw? It is God. It is Christ who is at work in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. So he says, **“Do all things without grumbling or disputing.” (Philippians 2:14)** Now when I think of that, I go back to 1 Corinthians, chapter 10. And this is where I want you to go. And in 1 Corinthians, chapter 10 he is writing to a church that knows how to grumble, that knows how to complain, because the church at Corinth, is a church that hasn’t grown up. It’s a church that is still on their bottle instead of taking meat. I mean they still want their “ba-ba.” It is a church that there is disputing between one another. There are divisions. There are schisms in this church and it’s because they haven’t grown up. And as he writes to them, he’s going to remind them of the Old Testament people, because from them he’s going to get an illustration. So watch what happens in this passage. He says in chapter 10, verse 1: **“I do not want you to be unaware brethren,”** duh. He says, “I don’t want you to be ignorant of this, **“...that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea.” (1 Corinthians 10:1)** Now he’s talking about the children of Israel when they were led out of the land of Egypt they were led by a cloud during the day, a pillar of fire during the night, so that they could see it. **“They all were under the cloud and they all passed through the sea.” (1 Corinthians 10:1b)** They all crossed the Red Sea. **“And all were baptized in Moses.” (1 Corinthians 10:2a)** Now baptized does not mean water here; it means they were united. In other words, where Moses was going they were going. What Moses was experiencing they were experiencing. **“And they were baptized...in the cloud and in the sea and all ate the same spiritual food.” (1 Corinthians 10:2-3)** They got up every morning and there was manna in the morning. **“And all drank the same spiritual drink, which, for they were drinking**

from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:4) Remember when they got thirsty and they complained to Moses and Moses struck the rock as God instructed him and the water came forth. Well he’s saying, “Hey, that rock was Christ.” What is he saying to you and me? And this is very important in understanding murmuring and disputing and complaining. It’s like the same thing that we saw in the last lesson. It’s God who is at work in you both to will and to do. You need water? Okay, you smite the rock; the rock is Christ, and from Christ comes what you need. Have you got that? From Christ comes what we need. So we don’t need to murmur. We don’t need to dispute. We can handle any situation of life if you have Christ. If Christ is in you, you can make it. Now I know that you think that you’re going down. I know you think nothing is ever going to be straightened out. I know that life is hard. I know that it is difficult. You say, “O you’re a Bible teacher sitting in this lovely surroundings. Things are difficult for you.” O, you don’t know. Yes, things are difficult, because life is not without difficulties, and the difficulties have a purpose. The difficulties are there to make me not depend on myself, but to look to God. Jesus said and He told them before He left, **“In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer.”** In other words, rejoice, **“For I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)** In other words you can make it. And you can make it without murmuring or grumbling or disputing. It says, **“Nevertheless,”** they had all of this, **“Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased, for they were laid low in the wilderness.” (1 Corinthians 10:5)** What does it mean? It means God killed them. God just let them die off because they would not believe Him. Now listen to what it says, this next verse is so key. He says, **“Now these things happened as examples for us so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.” (1 Corinthians 10:6)** In other words, when we read the Old Testament, hey, that’s an example for us. You say, “What does that have to do with murmuring and complaining?” Well he goes on to say, in verse 9,

“Nor let us try the Lord, as some did and were destroyed by the serpents. Nor grumble, as some did and were destroyed by the destroyer.” (1 Corinthians 10:9-10) Do you know what God did? God got them for grumbling, for murmuring, for complaining with God’s dealings with them, God just dealt with them. I mean they were destroyed. And listen to me very carefully, if you continue to be a murmurer, you continue to be a grumbler, you continue to be a complainer, you know you’re going to destroy all sorts of things. You’re going to destroy your relationships with other people. You’re going to destroy their relationships. You can destroy a church. And you know what? You’ll answer to God for it if you’re a child of God. Now that’s a strong way to go to a break, isn’t it? It is, but come back and we’ll look at it.

PART TWO

Grumble, grumble, grumble, murmur, murmur, murmur, complain, complain, complain; I’m never happy. That’s not to be you and that’s not to be me. Now sometimes you and I can get ourselves in what I call a snit. I don’t know if that’s a phrase you know, but a snit means that you are mad, that you are angry and that you’re just not going to have anymore of it and you’re going to let everybody know that you’re in a snit, that you’re angry. That’s what the children of Israel did. They were unhappy with God. Now when he says in 1 Corinthians 10, where I left you, as an illustration of Philippians chapter 4, which says, **“Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer,” (1 Corinthians 10:10)** he’s referring to Numbers 16 and Numbers 17, and that’s what you ought to read and watch for the word grumble. As a matter of fact, when you study the book of Numbers, grumble and murmur are key repeated words. And you see that every time they start grumbling, every time they start murmuring then God has to deal with them. And what He does here is He just opens the earth and swallows them. He’s had it and you have to understand God’s a

holy God. God's a righteous God, but God is also a sovereign God. And sovereign means that He rules over all. It means up here in heaven is God, and I use a triangle to illustrate God, if you can just put this in your imagination. And right under God, are the angels. There are the good angels and there are the bad angels. And there's the devil right in the middle. Then you come down to planet earth and on planet earth what you have is man. And you have man living among men. You have those that belong to the devil and you have those that belong to God and you have a conflict automatically. But those that belong to God are to live in such a way that no matter what the circumstances, they stand there in the midst of that crooked and perverse generation standing firm and holding forth offering to the world the light, the glorious light of life that is found in Jesus Christ. To say to those people, "Hey, you don't have to walk in darkness. You don't have to live that way." But when I stand there and I murmur and complain and I forget that this sovereign God, as Daniel 4 says, ["Does according to His will in the army of heaven...", among the bad angels and among the good angels and even over Satan, "...and among the inhabitants of the earth...none can stop God's hand and none can," now watch, "lift his puny little hand and say, 'What are You doing?'] (PARAPHRASE Daniel 4:35) And you're not to do that and you know why? Because that's murmuring, that's complaining. God is in charge. He creates good and He creates adversity. Isaiah chapter 45 tells you that. And if He creates adversity, He has a purpose in it. And whether it is good or whether it is adversity, beloved, He wants you to understand that He is the Lord, that He has ultimately done, permitted, whatever, all these things and He is going to take them and work them together for your good, for your Christ likeness, so that you might be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. Now Jesus, Hebrews 2 tells us, [That although He was a Son, He learned obedience through the things which He suffered. So when Jesus went through suffering He didn't open His mouth. He did not complain.] (PARAPHRASE Hebrews

2:18) I want you to go to 1 Peter chapter 2. So you are called. Listen to what he says. **“You are called for this purpose.”** I’m in 1 Peter 2, verse 21:

“...Since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example to follow in His steps.” (1 Peter 2:21) Not only do you have the Old Testament saints as an example of good and bad, but you have Jesus as an example always of good. And it says, **“Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth. And while being reviled...,”** now listen, **“While being reviled, He did not revile in return....”** **“He did not revile in return....” (1 Peter**

2:22) Are you reviling in return? Are you turning around saying, “You’re not going to speak to me like that, and further more, let me tell you,” and you tell them. That’s not the mind of Christ. That’s not the attitude of Christ.

And it’s not going to bring you joy. You’re going to say it and you may be happy for the minute, but I’m telling you, if you’re a child of God, you’re going to be miserable afterwards. And you’re going to be miserable

afterwards because you didn’t act blameless and innocent in the middle of that crooked and perverse generation. Well he goes on to say, **“While being**

reviled He did not revile in return. And while suffering, He uttered no threats, but He kept intrusting Himself to Him, God, who judges

righteously.” (1 Peter 2:23) In other words, Jesus had a fear of God. He had

a respect of God. Now I want you to go back to Philippians, chapter 2. So he

says that you and I are to be **“...blameless...,”** verse 15, **“...and**

innocent...,” and that means pure; it means we’re uncontaminated.

“...Children of God, above reproach in the midst of a crooked and

perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,”

(Philippians 2:15) dispelling the darkness. In other words, **“Holding fast**

the Word of life....” This is the Word of life. These are the very words of

life, **“...So that, in the day of Christ...,”** in the day when you and I stand

at the judgment seat of Christ. Now we’ve seen the day of Christ mentioned

twice already in chapter 1. **“So that in the day of Christ I...,”** Paul says,

“...will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain or toil in

vain.” (Philippians 2:16) In other words, when I came to Philippi it wasn’t a useless trip. But it is useless if you don’t catch it, if you don’t live it, if you don’t have the attitude of Christ, then it is useless. Because you see when Christ comes, and I want you to get this, and I want you to understand this, when Christ comes into us, precious one, then you and I are able to live life on the highest plane. And the highest plane is under the control of Jesus Christ, innocent, blameless in the midst of this crooked and perverse generation. And he goes on to say, **“But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and I share my joy with you all.” (Philippians 2:17)** He says, “Listen, it’s costing me imprisonment to do this, to bring the gospel to you and to run and to toil on your behalf. But I’m telling you that if you live the way you ought to live, poured out, broken and poured out and spilled out for you, it’s worth it. It’s worth it because now you have come out of darkness into the light. You’re no longer part of that world and that society that murmurs and groans and complains and disputes, but you’re living above it all. And I’m telling you that it is worth it.” And so he says, **“And you too, I urge you rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.” (Philippians 2:18)** “Share your joy even though I am suffering, because I am not complaining. I am not murmuring. I am not disputing. I am not angry with God. I am just thanking God for this awesome, awesome privilege of being able to suffer for the sake of the gospel, and it’s worth it all because you are living innocent, so to speak, and blameless in the midst of this generation.”