

B. “The sacrifice and service *of* your faith”

- i. Is it like the “of” in “the fruit *of* the tree” (coming out of or produced by), or as in “the catch *of* fish” (the catch is the fish)?

- ii. Our lives, worship, giving, and service to others is sacrifice and offering.

C. The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:25-28)

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Why do you think grumbling and bickering have to cease before we can enter into the joy God has called us to?
- Are there any interpersonal complaints and disputes, grumblings and bickering, keeping you from experiencing full joy in Christ?
- How might it be tempting to view the supernatural, “ordinary means of grace” (preaching, prayer, the Lord’s Table, fellowship, etc.) similarly to how the Israelites began viewing manna in Numbers 11?
- What might it look like for the church family to be like *lights/stars in the night sky*? How might we serve as signs to the world?
- Could your Christian life be described as “the sacrifice and service of your faith/faithfulness”? Do you view your life as a sacrifice to God, or as your own?
- How is the Lord leading you to apply this message?

Slaves of Christ – Part 6

Cross-centered Joy in Community

Jerry Cisar — November 4, 2018

Text: Philippians 2:14-18

Introduction

I. The Command (14)

A. The unity of 2:1-4, can be sunk by grumbling or arguing.

- i. Grumbling has a long history of disturbing unity among God’s people (Acts 6:1)
- ii. This is not a prohibition on *prayers of lament (complaint)*.
- iii. This is complaining and disputing in the church.
 - a) Philippians is unique in that it addresses the church along *with the elders and deacons* (1:1).
 - 4:2-3 Euodia and Syntyche

B. The history of grumbling goes back *much further than* Acts 6.

- a) Exodus 16:2
- b) Number 16 Korah's _____.
- ii. These were complaints and disputes against one another and involved leaders.
- iii. Not even manna is good enough (Numbers 11).

C. *Do not Grumble or Argue* is an application of 2:5-11.

John Calvin: "When every one makes it his care to please himself, two faults prevail: First, they slander one another; and secondly, they strive against one another in contentions."

- i. 1 Peter 4:9
- ii. 1 Corinthians 10:6-10

II. The Reason (15ab)

Thomas Aquinas: "No one can exist without sin, but he can without grumbling."

- A. The path to becoming *blameless and pure* requires ceasing with grumbling and bickering.
- B. The Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32:5, 19-20)

- C. Without fault
 - i. Hebrews 9:14
 - ii. When Paul refers to believers as being made without blemish, it infers that we too are going to be living sacrifices for the Lord.

III. The Outcome (15b-16a)

- A. Lights in the sky
 - i. Daniel 12:3
 - ii. Genesis 1:14-15
 - a) The lights were to serve as signs.
 - b) Genesis 2:1
 - c) John 3:16

B. As you hold firmly to the word of life.

Alfred Poirier: "When offended by another, we forget God's kindness, tolerance, and patience toward us. We forget the ten thousand talents of debt he has canceled."

IV. The Sacrifice and Service (17-18)

- A. Drink offerings were poured over or beside burnt offerings.