

PLEASE, DON'T DIM YOUR LIGHTS.
PHIL. 2:14-18

Introduction:

- A. We have learned that we are able to do His will.
 - 1. God has a will. v13
 - 2. He "energizes" us to do His will.

- B. It is possible to do God's will, but not be happy in the doing of it.
 - 1. Paul commands obedience, but explains the type of obedience that is blessed and honored.
 - 2. Ungrudging and uncomplaining work is God's will.

I. "DO ALL THINGS WIHTOUT MURMERINGS AND DISPUTING."

- A. murmerings = may have come from the sound made by a sea shell, it is onomatopoetic, the sound of the word is the sound signified, "gonguzo" to utter a low voice, generally complaints, to manifest discontent. If we praise we want people to hear!
 - 1. Used in parable of the Householder. Matt. 20:11.
 - 2. Scribes and Pharisees against Christ. Luke 5:30.
 - 3. Of the Israelites. I Cor. 10:10.

- B. Disputings = dialogismos = an inward reasoning, an opinion, our opinions based on our reasoning.
 - 1. God has a will and a way.
 - 2. We may do it but at the same time dispute it.

- C. What are these, "all things"?
 - 1. Primary application, to God's work and workers.
 - 2. This attitude of griiping and faultfinding will make us less effective in anything we do!

II. THE DIRECT APPLICATION OF PAUL'S COMMAND.

- A. "that ye may be blameless and harmless."
 - 1. blameless = amemptos = unblameable, unblemished. Christ was without blemish but was not unblamed. The Philippians were to be without condemnable situations in their lives, they would be "blamed", but without foundation.
 - 2. harmless = guileless, sincere, unmixed, with absence of foreign matter, it is wine unmixed with water.
 - 3. "be faultless and inviolate."

- B. "the sons of God, without rebuke."
 - 1. Children of God without blame.
 - 2. Daniel, no fault found in him.
 - 3. David, with blame, embarrassed God!

- C. "in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation."
 - 1. crooked = bent sideways from dryness. A drying piece of lumber, bending. Not just people but a way of life.
 - 2. Perverse = to turn or twist thoughtout, to distort, perverted.

- D. "among whom ye shine as lights in the world."
 - 1. "ye shine like stars."
 - 2. "you are seen shining like stars in a dark world."
 - 3. Matt. 5:14-16.

- E. Don't dim your lights!

III. KEEP ON DOING GOD'S WILL. U16

- A. "Holding forth the word of life."
 - 1. "holding out to them the word of life."
 - 2. "extend to them the words that have life."

- B. "that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain."

1. The day of Christ will be the day of rejoicing if Paul can show them as faithful people of God.
 2. "lived and worked in vainity."
- C. Suppose doing God's will leads to death!
1. v17,18, In fact, even if my lifeblood must be poured out for a sacrifice to nurture your faith, still I shall rejoice and share the joy of you all.
 2. The death of Paul, sacrificed on the altar of their faith, his blood and their faith would bring mutual rejoicing!
- D. Help us O' Lord, to let our lights shine, help us to keep on holding forth the word of God, don't let us dim our lights, but Help us O' Lord to turn them up that they may shine brighter and brighter.