

# EXCESS BAGGAGE

## *I Won't Complain, Philippians 2:14-16*

### **Work Out Your Own Salvation**

**Philippians 2:12 (KJV) 12** *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

- In Philippians 2, Paul exhorts the Philippian believers to continue obeying the Word of God as they done in the past
- Paul exhorts the Philippian believers to work out their own salvation
- Notice Paul said *work out* their own salvation, not *work for* their salvation
- Salvation cannot be “earned” or “worked for”, it is *the* gift of God  
**Ephesians 2:8 (KJV) 8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*
- Working out one’s salvation means that our salvation is to be *evident* in every area of our lives
- Although Jesus’ work of the Cross was a *complete* work *for* us, there is still work to be done *in* us
- We must *work out* what God by His grace has *worked in*
- Work out means to finish, bring to completion of perfection
- Don’t go halfway in living for God
- Don’t settle for bits and pieces of the Christian life, live a full and complete life for Jesus
- We must work out our *own* salvation
- We should care about the souls of others, but care *starts* with our own souls
- Work out your own salvation with *fear and trembling*; this does *not* mean believers are to live in fear of hell and eternal damnation
- It does mean we are to have righteous and awe-filled reverence of God

### **No Complaining!**

**Philippians 2:14-16 (KJV) 14** *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

- One of the ways believers obey Paul’s command to work out our own salvation is by not complaining and arguing
- To *murmur* means to complain, gripe, grumble, have a pity party, fault finding, gossip, etc.
- Complaining is the outward expression of inward discontentment
- *Disputing* means arguments, questionings, expressions of doubts that are out in the open

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- Complaints that are not dealt with will lead to disputes, arguments, and divisiveness
- That's point of Paul's command, do *all* things without complaining and arguing, nothing is left out
- We are to live all our Christian lives without complaining and arguing
- If believers are complaining and arguing, where the evidence of our salvation?

### ***The Dangers of Complaining***

- There's a reason why we are to do all things without complaining and arguing; complaining is *sin*
- Complaining is not a harmless issue, it's serious to God
- Why does God have a major problem with complaining?
  - Complaining is *incompatible* with our salvation
  - When we complain, we're doubting God's goodness in the present
    - We're not grateful for what we have and where we are in life
  - Complaining effects our love for Jesus ***Revelation 2:4 (KJV) 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.***
  - Complaining is *contagious*
  - We complain to others so they can join in our "pity party"
  - Complaining leads to other sins
  - The atmosphere of complaining and discontentment is where the devil thrives
  - We're not a good example to the world ***1 Corinthians 3:3 (NLT2) 3 for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?***
  - Complaining slows your spiritual maturity
    - Spiritual maturity is the product of growing through trials
  - Complaining creates more problems than it solves
  - The journey to the Promised Land took 40 years instead of 11 days and millions of lives because of complaining
  - Effects how you see God, life and the future
  - You lose hope
  - Complaining is a symptom of two spiritual problems: *trust and submission*

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- Our complaints are really a complaint about God ***Exodus 16:8 (NLT2) 8 Then Moses added, "The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the LORD, not against us."***
  - No matter what God did for the Israelites there was always another complaint

#### ***Not Complaining will Help Us Grow in Godliness***

***15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.***

- When we rid our lives of complaining, we are working out our own salvation and it creates an environment for spiritual growth
- We are to work at being *blameless*, living a life above reproach and criticism
- Being blameless doesn't mean spiritual perfection, but it does mean we're practicing holiness in our lives
- We are to work at being *harmless*, which means unmixed and unadulterated
- We are to work at living lives *without rebuke*, meaning without blemish, spot of defect
  - We are to live our lives without spot or blemish by living as a sacrifice to God by keeping away from the divisive nature of complaining
- We must work to live a life without fault in a crooked and perverse world
  - This world is crooked (bent) and perverse (twisted)
- God wants us to live without complaining before a perverse world by shining as lights
  - We shine as stars not because we have light in ourselves, but because we reflect the light of God
- We are to work out our salvation by being a witness; by holding forth the word of life
  - The *word of life* is the Word of God
  - We are to share word of God with others
- The gospel is the message of life that is only found in Jesus Christ

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### **How to Get Rid of Complaining in Our Lives**

- Learn to trust God more ***Proverbs 3:5 (KJV) 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.***
  - God knows what best for us, therefore we must put our lives in His hands
- Realize God is Sovereign ***Ephesians 1:11 (KJV)<sup>11</sup> In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:***
  - When we say Jesus is Lord, we're saying Jesus is in charge and complete control of our lives
- Learn to be content ***Philippians 4:11 (KJV) 11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.***
  - Learn how to adapt to any situation or circumstance you face without complaining
  - God is still good even when times are bad
- Learn the beauty of gratitude ***1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV) 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***
  - Paul was not teaching that we should thank God for everything that happens to us, but *in* everything
- Watch what you say ***Psalms 141:3 (KJV) 3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.***
  - James 3:6 says "the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body"
- Invite the Holy Spirit's help ***John 14:26 (KJV) 26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.***
  - If you're having trouble with complaining, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to remember what God has worked in you