

And all we have to do is, in all we do, NOT GRUMBLE.

1 Cor 10:1-13: We have an OT example which speaks of trials/temptation:

<sup>11</sup> *These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.* <sup>12</sup> *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!* <sup>13</sup> *No temptation (peirasmos) has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted (peirazo-tested) beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted (peirasmos), he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

*Peirasmos*: is simply to test or to prove. Has no negative connotation.

James 1:2: *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*

"Some translations render *peirasmos* in James with the word temptations, but the context does not suggest that it is being used in the sense of solicitation to evil or temptation to sin for one would hardly be urged to rejoice in such a setting." Bruce Hurt Comm.

Tempt: *peirazo* = perforate, pierce through to test durability of things. Is a morally neutral word simply meaning "to test".

*Peirazo/peirasmos* when used of God reflects His testing or trying a believer's faith, but never in the sense of tempting the believer to sin.

God does allow "tests" in our life, but His purpose is never to cause us to stumble, but to humble us and refine us and make us more like His Son. We are the problem when the tests come, not God! Every test is an opportunity to grow in grace or stumble into sin.

1 Pet 2:11 *Abstain from sinful desires...* put distance between us and sinful desires.

Luke 10:40 *Do not be distracted...* drawn in different directions at the same time.

Php 2:14 *Do everything without grumbling/complaining...*

So that you will shine for God in a dark and lost world. (They are watching!)

When others view our lives today, what do they see?

**Series:** Biblical Gen. Ed.

**Title:** Can We Pass The Test?

**Topic:** Shine in the darkness

Last week: 1 Peter 2:11-12 *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.* <sup>12</sup> *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.* (NIV)

**Lesson Lead-in:**  
**Luke 10:38-42**

*Distracted:* to be drawn different ways at the same time. Passive voice -- In her mind she had this to do, and she had that to do...

*Preparations:* unnecessarily elaborate.

**Background for today's text:**

The Philippian Church had been started by Paul 10 years previous. The church was:

- Desperately poor.
- Under persecution.
- Attacked by false teachers.

**Lesson:**

**Php 2:14-15:**

In the text from Philipians, \_\_\_\_\_ grumbling makes us shine like stars in the world's culture: Matt:5:16 *Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

"Every circumstance of life is to be accepted willingly and joyfully, without murmuring, complaint, or disappointment, much less resentment. There is no exception. There should never be either emotional **grumbling** or intellectual **disputing**. It is always sinful for believers to complain about anything the Lord calls them to do or about any circumstance which He sovereignly allows. Whether the

task is difficult or easy, whether the situation involves a blessing or a trial, negative attitudes are forbidden. As he testifies later in this letter, Paul's own spiritual growth had led him to enjoy this attitude." J Mac

"Our lives are so full of the unnecessary. They control us. They ruin our attitudes. They whack away at our relationships. We get frustrated over stuff that does not matter." (And we grumble/complain.)

### **Digging deeper:**

<sup>14</sup> *Do everything without grumbling or arguing,*

*Without (choris)* means separately and is from a root word *chora* which means the space lying between two places or limits.

The picture we get from this word is for us to put some space between the things we do and our grumbling -- "**stay away from**" it. Live and work separated and apart from grumbling and disputing.

<sup>15a</sup> *so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault..."*

*Children of God* – We dare not read this phrase too quickly and glibly so that it hardly enters our mind and affects our heart. If saints (that is us) would meditate more deeply on the incredible privilege and position we have to be God's **children** now and forever, it would (should) radically impact our conduct.

<sup>15b</sup> *so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault (above reproach) in a warped and crooked generation."*

*Above reproach (amomos)* one who is without blemish (like the OT sacrificial animal) and is free of defect. Saints are to be those "without blemish". By living lives "**without blemish**", God's children will stand out all the more clearly against the dark background of this world.

<sup>15c</sup> *Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.*

Do you know how the Northern Lights get their beauty and stunning quality? As the sun gives off highly charged particles of energy, traveling at unbelievable speeds, these particles form a cloud or plasma. This stream of plasma is known as the solar wind. As the solar wind interacts with the edge of the earth's magnetic field, some particles collide with the gases in the ionosphere and start to glow, producing this amazing spectacle of dancing columns of light. These particles then collide with gas molecules in the atmosphere, thereby exciting the molecules and causing them to emit electromagnetic radiation in the visible portion of the spectrum.

This only happens when there is a collision of particles from above the earth with the earth's atmosphere. As Paul declares in Philippians 3:20, we are citizens of heaven. When we collide with the citizens of earth, we should explode in an array of attractive light, and excite others to get fired up as well. As one pastor likes to say, "Evangelism is what spills over when you bump into someone."

"Our lights cannot shine if instead of trimming them we occupy ourselves with blowing out the lamps of others." Spurgeon

Paul says that three things should mark *children of God*:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ This has the nuance of moral integrity as seen by others. It points to our outwardly observable behavior, including our attitudes.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ This word focuses on inward moral integrity, which is the proper root of outwardly blameless behavior. It focuses on what we are in our thought life before God. All sin starts in our thoughts or mind (Mark 7:20-23). Therefore we have to judge our sinful thoughts and take every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 10:5) so that we will be not only blameless, but innocent.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ This word is a summary of the other two and means, without blemish. It's a Greek word, *amomos*. In Greek, the letter "a" negates something. So, the word means, the opposite of *moma*. "*Momus*" was a Greek god who did nothing himself and found fault with everybody and everything. So those who gripe and find fault: came to be called "*Moma*." But Paul says that the children of God are not to be faultfinders and grippers. We are to be without the blemish of complaining because we are not to live like this crooked and perverse generation.