

Lights to Our Generation  
*Philippians 2:12-18*

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**I. Complaining and disputing. *Philippians 2:12-14***

In the original language, **complaining** is a \_\_\_\_\_ dialogue behind the scenes that calls every decision into question.

- Because of the murmuring and **complaining** of the Children of Israel, that entire generation - except Joshua and Caleb - were \_\_\_\_\_ from going to the Promise Land.

The Children of Israel went from *singing* to **complaining** very quickly. The Children of Israel \_\_\_\_\_ remembered the past and thought of their time in Egypt as a good time.

- If the Lord is in charge, the worst part about **complaining** as a Christian is we are ultimately **complaining** against the \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Blameless and harmless children. *Philippians 2:15-16***

This world is in a state of decay and it is also in darkness, but God's remedy for this dark world is for His \_\_\_\_\_ to shine!

1. Light \_\_\_\_\_ darkness.
2. Light shows a \_\_\_\_\_ of darkness.

*"1. Holding fast to the word of God in the sense of allowing it to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives, allowing it to inform and shape every area of our lives.*

*2. One translator said we could read this as holding forth the Gospel in the sense of holding it out; offering it to the world by our \_\_\_\_\_ and with our words."* (Richard Cimino)

**III. A Drink Offering. *Philippians 2:17-18***

The wine was not wasted, but it was to be poured out onto the ground as an \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord. ***Leviticus 23:10-13***

- Notice, **"the sacrifice and service of your faith."** The Greek word for **service** means *"Service to God or His cause...any priestly action or \_\_\_\_\_ performance."* ***1 Peter 2:4-5***

**IV. Practical Application.**

Paul's life being a sacrifice for Jesus Christ, whether he lived or died, was the source of \_\_\_\_\_ for his life.

- Christians are to point the world to the One Who is responsible and Who is to be \_\_\_\_\_ for any good that comes out of us.

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. Read ***Philippians 2:12-14***. Discuss some ill effects that happen when there is complaining and disputing.
  - In our personal lives. ***1 Corinthians 10:10, Ephesians 4:29***
  - In a local church. ***Ephesians 4:1-6, Colossians 3:13-14***
  - In a nation (*what did Israel miss because of their complaining?*). ***Exodus 16:2-3, Numbers 32:6-15***
2. Warren Wiersbe said, *"God must work in us before He can work through us."* What does that statement mean to you?
3. Read ***Philippians 2:15-16***. What does it mean to be **blameless and harmless children?** ***Psalm 119:1, 18:23, 19:13***
4. What does it mean to be a light to the world? Discuss some practical ways of shining for Jesus. *What does it mean that light exposes the darkness? What does it mean that light shows a way out of the darkness?* ***Matthew 5:14-16, Matthew 28:19-20, John 8:12, John 14:6, Ephesians 5:8***
5. Read ***Philippians 2:17-18***. What did Paul mean when he said he was a drink offering? ***Leviticus 23:10-13, Mark 9:35, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 2:4-5, 1 Peter 4:10***
6. Discuss the Practical Applications of the sermon.