



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ OCTOBER 2015 ❖

There It Was!

Have you ever found yourself reading a familiar passage and you see something in it that you overlooked before? Well, while listening to a preacher speak during a gospel meeting, he referenced verse 12, chapter 2, of the book of Philippians.

As I followed along in my Bible, I took a moment to look at the context. And there it was! In verse 14. Right in the middle of Paul's admonition to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, and being a light in the world. How often I have read and quoted verse 12 emphasizing "work out your salvation with fear and trembling," but this time my eyes focused on "Do all things without grumbling or disputing."

grumbling (Greek: *goggusmos*): a grumbling; grudging, murmuring.

disputing (Greek: *dialogismos*): discussion, that is, (internal) consideration, or (external) debate: doubting, imagination, reasoning, thought.

Easton & Strong's Bible Dictionaries

WITHOUT GRUMBLING OR DISPUTING

Complaining softly to oneself: Why do I have to do it? (**Murmur**)

I want to talk about this before committing myself. (**Discussion**)

I don't see the importance. (**Internal consideration**)

I beg to differ. (**External Debate**)

I doubt that it's that important. (**Doubt**)

I look at things differently. (**Imagination**)

It doesn't seem reasonable to me. (**Reasoning**)

I don't think it matters that much. (**Thought**)

It's important for the followers of Jesus to have the right attitude. It's not a duty or burden to obey, it's a privilege. Obeying from the heart, joyfully and willingly – no grumbling and disputing.

Text: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16

FOOD
FOR
THOUGHT

A good name is a valuable treasure.

A good name is to be more desired than great wealth,

Favor is better than silver and gold.

Proverbs 22:1

The Demise of Guilt and Shame

Two things amaze me: (1) How much effort one will put forth to get out of work. And (2) the mental gymnastics one will perform to avoid guilt and shame – the very emotions God has given us to avoid self-destruction.

We are witnessing the demise of guilt and shame. Some want them declared an unnecessary emotional burden that needs to be removed from society. They are being blamed for emotional problems, societal problems and relational problems. It is felt that if guilt (and it's siamese twin, shame) can somehow be removed then we will all be able to have inward peace and live in peace with others.

ACTION AND CONSEQUENCE

What is being ignored is the fact that every action has a reaction (consequence). Every action has an effect upon a person, beneficial or detrimental. The effect cannot be removed or altered.

God gave us the feeling of pain, so that one might not continue to injure himself physically. The pain one feels when touching something red hot causes a reaction and a remembrance to avoid further consequences. Guilt and shame are emotions with which God has endowed us, so that we cease from pursuing a course of action harmful to ourselves and others. They keep us from self-destruction.

Doing right brings feelings of satisfaction, peace and inward harmony. Doing wrong brings feelings of guilt, shame and inward turmoil, brought on by the knowledge that one has done wrong.

To maintain emotional stability such feelings must be addressed. No one can endure for very long the shame and guilt brought on by doing wrong. Something has to be done to restore peace and inward harmony.

It's apparent that the way to do this is to stop doing wrong, be remorseful, and "mend fences." However, such a course of action is not acceptable to those who want to continue doing wrong. For them another way must be found to restore inward peace and harmony. Here is where the mental gymnastics begin.

MENTAL EXERCISES

Exercise #1: Demand that others not be judgmental: to accept you for what you are. Simply stated: *Don't tell me I'm wrong.*

Exercise #2: Decriminalize the wrong. Believe society has put unreasonable restrictions on one's actions. If God gave us the desires, then it can't be wrong to satisfy the yearnings. Simple observation: *To reclassify wrong as right doesn't change the action or the consequences.*

Exercise #3: Accept the philosophy, "I'm OK, you're OK." Simply stated: *I won't consider you wrong in the wrong that you are doing, and you are not to consider me wrong in the wrong I'm doing.*

Exercise #4: Blame others. Parents, family, friends, even enemies are assigned blame for one's wrong actions. Simply put: *My actions may be wrong, but it's not my fault.*

Exercise # 5. Blame circumstances. Society, current events, and culture are deemed to be the culprit. Simply put: *I was born into a hostile environment, and it is at the root of my improper actions.*

Exercise #6. Find fault with critics. "Who are you to judge me? You aren't so perfect yourself." Simple fact: *An attempt to cloud the issue, or shift focus away from one self.*

Exercise #7. Blur the line between right and wrong to the point that they are indistinguishable from one another. Simply put: *Situation ethics.*

To remove guilt and shame is a futile effort. To deny their existence is sheer folly.

"In vain do they . . ." are words from the Bible. All such effort will come to naught.

THE REMEDY

The remedy is simple and painful. It is difficult but effective. It's readily available: no prescription needed; you can get it "over-the-counter."

Welcome guilt as a friend-in-need. Embrace shame as an ally. These two can help us avoid inward turmoil, pain and suffering. They will aid us in our pursuit of inward peace and harmony.

Lesson Nuggets*

(*Small compact portions of information)

◆ **To hide one's faith for purposes of self-preservation violates what Jesus said.**

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell." Matthew 10:28

"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." Matthew 5:16

◆ **Opportunities to do good often come during difficult circumstances.**

"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear." Philippians 1:12-14

◆ **Being determined (making up one's mind) is half the battle. Hesitating between two opinions is not good.**

"Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him ...'" 1 Kings 18:21

◆ **Resist being defiled at all cost. It is absolutely critical. Moral and spiritual defilement are fatal.**

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

◆ **Give an inch, lose a mile. Compromise, like blackmail, knows no limit.**

But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul. Hebrews 10:38-39

◆ **We need to conduct our lives consistent with our high calling.**

"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:1-3

"For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6:20

AN ALLEGORY

If You Own a Car

It's true that you **don't have to**:

- Take it to a gas station for fuel.
- Take it to a repair shop when it needs repair.
- Keep it clean.

If You Are a Christian

It's true that you **don't have to**:

- Attend church services.
- Admit faults and fix what's wrong.
- Keep your heart and mind clean.

But failing to do it will result in it letting you down, in need of fixin' and full of filth.

You don't have to ... but remember, you will have to live with the consequences.



Ponder This

High- Minded

“Proud,” “Haughty,” “Scoffer,” are his names, who acts with insolent pride.

Proverbs 21:24

The cemeteries are full of people who thought the world couldn't get along without them.

“I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.”

Jeremiah 17:10

Egotism is the glue with which you become stuck on yourself.

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

Having a “big head” makes one top-heavy.

“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”

Proverbs 16:18

The bigger the head, the smaller the heart.

“Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”

Romans 12:16

The proud are headed for a fall.

A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

Proverbs 29:23



Word Study

enhance your
Bible knowledge

VAIN

Not yielding the desired outcome; fruitless.

VAIN WORSHIP

“BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.”

Matthew 15:9

VAIN BELIEF

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

VAIN EFFORT

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.

Matthew 7:21-23

ADMONITION

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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