



**THIS JOY THAT I HAVE**  
*A Journey Through Philippians*  
*Philippians 2:14-24*

**Series Aim: To equip and encourage believers to embrace and choose joy in every season of life.**

**DO NOT GRUMBLE v. 14**

Building upon his foundational teaching on sanctification, Paul now gives us some specific application. The “all things” that the Christian is to “do” is a broad, all-inclusive statement that encompasses all things that God calls us to do in our lives. Home, work, school, church, and in all areas of marriage, parenting, friendship, and ministry. “Grumbling” means murmuring or muttering. The idea is of a secret displeasure not openly spoken about. “Disputes” speaks of arguing and debating. It is the product of a contentious spirit that feels the need to continually question what is done.

**SHINE THE LIGHT v. 15**

Why is it important not to grumble or dispute? “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” The purpose why grumbling and disputing must be abandoned, is so that the light of Christ might shine through believers. Paul encourages believers to prove themselves to be different from the crooked and perverse generation in which they live.

**SPEAK THE WORD v. 16**

“Holding fast” carries the idea of “holding forth”. It’s not merely that we would have a tenacious grip on the gospel but also extend it to others. We must always be presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to others with whom we have contact. Paul refers to the message as “the word of life”, meaning it both possesses and gives life. **Hebrews 4:12**

**SERVE THE CHURCH v. 17**

A drink offering was a God-ordained sacrifice, that was poured on top of an animal sacrifice (**Exodus 29:38-41**). Wine was poured either in front of or upon the burning animal. As the wine vaporized, the steam rose upward. This symbolized the rising of the sacrificial offering to God. So, Paul’s life is being poured out upon the lives of the Philippians.

**SHARE YOUR JOY v. 18**

Paul encouraged the Philippians to share their joy with him just like his sharing of his joy with them. Even if we cannot rejoice in our circumstances, we can rejoice in the Lord. Paul is a man and is subject to discouragements of life. Paul needed other believers to come around him and share their joy with him. If Paul needed others to share their joy with him, how much more do you and I need others to share their joy with us.

**HUMILITY IS LONG LASTING v. 19**

Paul declares that Timothy is a long-lasting supporter of him. When others had left, Timothy has lasted. We, too, need to be long-lasting in our relationships with spiritual leaders.

**HUMILITY IS LIKE MINDED v. 20**

Timothy distinguishes himself as having the same mind as the apostle. Paul and Timothy are knit together into one soul. Everyone needs a companion like this to serve in ministry with.

**HUMILITY IS LARGE HEARTED vv. 20-21**

This young understudy is deeply concerned for the spiritual good of the Philippians. If we are to be profitable servants, we must be self-denying, and not self-focused. If we are to be a useful instrument to the Lord, we must be large hearted, just as Timothy was.

**HUMILITY IS CLEARLY SEEN v. 22**

Paul points out to the Philippian church that when it comes to Timothy, they “know his proven worth.” In the first century, this had the sense of being put through a special test and gaining positive result. If Timothy had been untested in the ministry, he would have been a liability to Paul when tough times came.

**HUMILITY WORKS HARD v. 22**

Ministry is hard work, and this is seen in the verb “served”. It means to be directed and pushed by someone else in the work. Timothy is a hard worker with a strong work ethic. Ministry that cost nothing accomplishes nothing.