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Amen, amen, and amen. If you could, while you're still loving on the person next to you, turn with me to Philippians chapter number two. Philippians chapter number two, and we're going to pick up our reading at verse number 12.

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And when you have it, can we say amen?

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Amen.

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Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now not only is it my presence, but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God, without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that the day of Christ I may be proud that it did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I'm to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise, you also should be glad and rejoice with me. Father, we just thank you for this morning. We come, Father, to the mighty Word. With all that is going on in the world, we know that you are alive and strong in us. Father, we pray that as we sit attentively at the feet of Jesus, we just ask you, Lord, to keep our minds open to hear. Holy Spirit, You know our frame, You know our being, You know our frailty, You know the battles that we wrestle with, the trials that we endure, the frustrations that we face, the love that we so desperately desire to give. Help us. Help us to wrestle against our flesh. Help us to wage a good warfare. Help us to see, Father, that the end might be close, but we're to live every day redeeming the time. Remind us, Lord, that not only are we fearfully and wonderfully made, but being made new in Christ, we're made for you. Let worship, Father, adorn us. Let praise come from our lips. Let our lives sacrificially live for you. All that we are and all that we could ever be is only because of you. So today we come together as we pray every day, giving you all glory, all honor and all praise. We need you. We thank you that we have you. Guide us as your church for your glory. In Jesus' name we love you and pray. Amen. You may be seated. I had the blessed opportunity this morning to go and speak before coming here to speak. And sometimes when you are not in your normal element, if you would, where you normally you get an opportunity to just kind of sit back and see and taste how good God truly is. Just to be able to hear worship in a different manner than sometimes the way we do here. To be able to see the expressions of those who are serving the Lord has given me here this morning. As I sat down to put pen to paper, or should I say finger to laptop, I was reading a few things about this section of scripture. And as I began to contemplate what Paul was saying, a story came to mind. I remember this man who grew up with polio back in the 1940s before there was a vaccine. This young boy lived in Tucson, of all places. And he began to receive treatment for the polio that he had. At the age of five, his mother, who was with him, had a heart attack. She died. So he had a family member travel by train to pick him up from Tucson. And this young boy made his way back to Helena, Arkansas to live with his grandmother. When his mother was gone, he continued treatment for that disease that left him handicapped. One of his legs severely affected. At the age of eight, he was finally able to go to school for the very first time, having to wear a very heavy leg brace in order to walk. But he was happy to just simply be in school. By the age of 10, he was still undergoing surgeries just in order to be able to walk effectively, one leg outgrowing the other. And they would try to stop the growth in one leg so that he would be able to walk. And this continued for quite some while, time. However, at

10, in the midst of all this, he began working at a little store on the corner in Arkansas to help provide for himself and his grandmother. Let's not forget that during that time, segregation was the way of life, black with black and white with white. It wasn't until 1957, where a group of black students known as the Little Rock Nine were integrated into an all-white high school. So being black and handicapped set the stage for a very hard childhood. Can you remember hearing the stories that you'd be bullied on the way to school, often pushed down, made to get back up? He said he never made it to school without crying. Fast forward, in spite of all of this, this young man went on to finish high school and attend a trade school. And he learned electronics, moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he met a city girl, Firecracker. And she tells the story that when she first laid eyes on him, she said, he's handsome, but he's crippled. The two were later married and raised for children. This young boy is my father. And I'm blessed to carry his name as Will Russell, Jr. You may be wondering why I'm telling the story this morning. And the answer is simple. In all my years of growing up, I have never heard my dad complain. He had everything to complain about. He didn't ask for polio. He didn't ask for his mother to die at five years old. He didn't ask to be raised during the heights of racial discrimination. Nobody asked for calamity, trials, or tribulations. He sure didn't. I was born June 23, 1966. And in all my 57 years of being blessed to walk this earth, I have never heard him complain about one thing. He didn't have much when he grew up and as I look around I have more than I need

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That same morning

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Was downstairs My grandson who gets dropped off at my house on his way to school came into my room It's a grandpa Bobbing his head up and down as he got his iPad, and he says, listen to this song, and it's this Christian rap song. And I mean, he was just like, he was doing his thing, right? And so I was sitting there and I was looking at him, and as I was listening to it, I went down to the kitchen, and my other grandson was there because he was frustrated because his iPad didn't have the same features as my other grandson's iPad. My house is the congregation where everyone congregates to go to school that morning because I'm around the corner from the school. I need to move. But anyway, that being said, they're arguing and he's upset because his iPad doesn't have the same feature as his cousin's. So his mom takes the iPad and so she tries to download an update to see if that feature would appear. At that point, he walks over to my granddaughter, the youngest, 18 months, and she's sitting in her eye chair with her iPad. And so he proceeds to take it from her. And finally, I step in and I said, man, when I was a kid, I was lucky to be able to read the back of a cereal box. That's all I could do, right? And then my daughter turns to me and she says, well, the rule is no devices before school. And I was like, that's a real rule? No devices before school? And so I'm thinking inside my head how times have changed. My grandson, he finally calms down and he says, I'm hungry. Now my daughter sent him downstairs to eat breakfast, but then in all the commotion of not having what he wanted on his iPad, he didn't eat. But now it was time for them to go. So my daughter's like, nope, we gotta go, we gotta get you to school. And I said, well, just give the boy something to eat. I mean, just give him some cereal. She already knows what he's gonna say, I'm naive. And so she says, okay, I'll give him cereal, but with milk. And as soon as she says with milk, his, I don't want milk in my cereal. And then she turns and she looks at me and I'm just like, wow, what is happening? And so I'm sitting and I'm thinking about this and I'm thinking, I don't ever remember telling my parents what I would and would not eat. Now, maybe I did, but let me just say this. I don't have any memory of it, but it's probably telling me they might've knocked me down and I don't remember anything after that, all right? I'm not advocating that. Let's make sure we stay on the same page, okay? But I don't ever remember that. And so I'm literally upstairs thinking about my father. And I come downstairs and I see my grandkids. And they're complaining about what they either don't like or don't have. And I couldn't help but think, the more we have, the more

discontent we become

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It leads to

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constant complaining We see it we hear it and we experience it often Not just in the world Paul

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speaking to the church

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Remember as I opened He's saying in his absence just as much as in his presence to work out their salvation with fear and trembling for it is God Who's at work in them both to will and to work his good pleasure? Then he comes right behind it And he says do all things without grumbling or disputing He's speaking to the Philippians He's exhorted them work out your salvation remain obedient from the heart do the will and the work of the Lord It's the Father who's at work in you. The precious Holy Spirit is the one who's guiding us. Remember, we're being saved. That phrase isn't just about our justification, what became the righteousness of Christ through faith. It speaks to our progressive sanctification, where God did work energizing our energy, as we learned last week. So as we give maximum effort in pursuing holiness Christ likeness, it's actually God at work on the inside of us In our willing obedience were conformed into the image of Christ and that image it isn't outward appearance It's an inward disposition It's what we're learning last week a divine attitude that always the desire to do what's pleasing to the Lord This was Jesus's attitude in his perfect obedience to do what's pleasing to the Lord. This was Jesus's attitude and his perfect obedience. Beloved, it should be ours. Only then will the Spirit empower our desire to work out what the Father worked in. When we have the same divine attitude as the Lord, we're surrendering to the Father's will. If we go back to the beginning of the chapter, Paul was calling for the believers to be of the same mind and love, to be of one accord, do nothing from selfish motives, but in humility place the interests of others before themselves. He not only exhorted them to have an attitude of humility, which promotes unity, he's calling them to live this way always. His use of Jesus as a perfect example of humility was given to motivate the believers to humble themselves so as to maintain unity. This is what Paul meant by working out their salvation. Through selflessness, they were to humbly submit themselves to one another as the Lord performs his sanctifying work in their lives. This is to be done, catch this, without grumbling or disputing. The Greek word for grumbling isn't hard to grasp. An audible expression of unwarranted dissatisfaction. An expression of one's discontent in low terms. It is a word that's derived from the sound that it makes. You know, when you're murmuring in a low, indistinct voice. You know, all right, all right, all right, all right.

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0:14:02

Yeah, yeah.

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We've all been there, right? Just grumbling. Now, our English word, it isn't much different. It's complaining in a bad-tempered, nagging, or discontented way, making a low, dull, rumbling sound. Both definitions carry the idea of complaining. Now, why would Paul be concerned with complaining amongst the Philippians? The answer is really simple. It breeds discontentment, and ultimately, it

affects unity. I want us to notice that Paul's exhortation to the Philippians was to do all things without complaining. The word do expresses an action as continued, not yet complete. Now, remember the word work out in the present tense, indicating continuous action? Therefore, Paul's instruction is to do all things without complaining was declaring that the complaining hindered their work complaining hinders what God has worked into us and it stops us from working it out he's painting a picture for it for them and for us think about it for a minute most of us have complained about something at one time or another, but let me ask you a question Have you ever seen complaining as a hindrance to your spiritual growth or better yet? Have you ever seen complaining as a sin? Most of the time We think it's not that big of a deal as long as we do what we're called to do But remember our obedience is supposed to be from a loving heart heart. It's out of a willful and loving desire to do the things which brings God pleasure. One needs only to go back to the Old Testament to see how complaining is not only a hindrance in obeying God, it is based a lack of faith and trust in God. It brings him displeasure. And I want to show you what I mean. We're going to go through some large sections of Scripture in the Old Testament. So bear with me. If you have your Bible, camp out in Exodus because that's where we're going to be. I want to show you something. And so, if you don't have your Bible, the Scriptures will be for you on the screen. But let me say this. Get into a habit of carrying your sword. I know it's easy to come and it's easy for the scriptures to be put up on the screen and I understand that and it's a good thing that we're able we have the technology to be able to do it but don't rely on it. The word should be first written in our heart. Can I tell you something you're not walking around with these monitors 24-7 which means that that book that you hold in your hand you have the blessed opportunity to meditate on it, to read it, to study it, to let it be life. And so if you don't have a Bible, come see me personally and I'll make sure that Jordan buys you one. No, I wouldn't do that. I would ask Chad. I'm joking, all right? So if you do not have a Bible, please come see me and we will make sure that you have one because it's important that you do So as I said, we're going to camp out in exodus this morning And I want to show you something last week. We were looking at how god's sovereignty Empowered man's responsibility as the lord through moses part of the red sea remember the israelites they crossed over now right after they passed you the red Sea praising god in exodus chapter number 15. They entered the wilderness and couldn't find water to drink. So I want you to get this picture, right? Here they are at the brink, and remember, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, but then immediately the Lord turns and says, what are you doing? Now move forward. And so God's going to work, but we also are at work. And so now they walk through the Red Sea and we get to Exodus chapter number 16. Exodus 16 verse number 23. And I want you to see how quickly they forgot their deliverance and what they began to do next. Exodus 16, 23. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter. Therefore it was named Marah. And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, what shall we drink? And he cried to the Lord. And the Lord showed him a log and he threw it into the water and the water became sweet There the Lord made for them a statue and a rule and there he tested them saying if you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God and Do that which is right in his eyes and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statues. I Will put none of the diseases on you that I will put on the Egyptians for I am the Lord your healer then they came the Elam where there were 12 springs of water 70 palm trees and they encamped there by the water now remember they saw the plagues that the Lord had come upon Egypt before they were set free and they were at the brink of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army breathing down on them in the Red Sea in front of them they don't think that they're going to be able to survive. And then the Lord parched the Red Sea, and they began to walk across, and they get to the other side. And finally, after all the Lord had done, what did they do? The first thing they began to do was complain. We don't have any water to drink. Think about this for a minute. How many times has God moved in your life and no sooner than he's done You're already complaining about something else

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This is what I love

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God gave them water anyway in spite of their complaining in Spite of what they were saying he gave them water anyway, and so they camped out there. This is where they stayed for a little bit. Then the time came for them to keep moving further through the wilderness. So we're gonna go Exodus 16. We're gonna go back to verse number one. It says, they set out from Elam and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of sin, which is between Elam and Sinai on the 15th day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. And I believe that's 17. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and the people of Israel said to them with that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt When we set by the meat pots and eat bread to the full for you have brought us into those wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger so now They're going through and they're pressing on but now they're hungry and so again they begin to grumble against Moses in the wilderness. Once again they're complaining we don't have food. First we don't have any water to drink. Now we get to a place to where okay now we have water to drink but now we don't have any food. God delivered us, brought us to all of us just so we could bring us into the wilderness so we could die. Think about that for a second. Think about all that it took for them to be set free. Think about all the plagues that God said. Think about the final plague in which the death of the firstborn and they put the blood on the doorposts of their homes and the spirit of death passed over, hence the term Passover, their homes. And their firstborns were kept. They seen God's hand moving in the midst of God telling Pharaoh, let my people go. And then they find themselves going and through the Red Sea and through the other side and all of a sudden they find this this this this pool of water but it's so bitter and all of a sudden he takes a log, a log, tosses it in and all of a sudden it becomes sweet. God's hand is constantly there. So now they're in this place and they're like, okay now here we are but we have no food. At what point do you not just trust that God's going to care for you? But instead, they grumble. And I can imagine. Ain't got nothing to eat. Got plenty of water to sweep. But I ain't got no food. I ain't got no bread. I can't live off of water. You know, what am I supposed to do? Sounds crazy, right? But I want you to think about yourself throughout the week. I don't know why my boss told me to do this. They think I am Superman. I can work everything ever. I don't know why. Lord, I don't know who this woman is that you gave me. She's my wife, but she think I can build everything under the sun. Can't she? I don't know why this woman ain't made dinner yet. She know I've been going all day. I was just talking about it. What are all these grandkids doing up in my house? Don't they got a house of their own to go live in? Oh, hey baby, how you doing? I just did. Get, get, get the picture. Okay. Get the picture. But none of that's a sin, right? We're just talking it and they say, hey, did you say something? I didn't say anything else. I just wanted to know how you're doing today. Think, get the picture inside your mind. Because that idea of grumbling, right, we're very familiar with. So they're grumbling against Moses. They're grumbling against Aaron. We're gonna die at first. God says, no, you're not. I'm gonna give you some water we're gonna die we don't have any food and once again God says no you're not I'm gonna provide for you verse 4 then the Lord said to Moses behold I'm about to rain bread from heaven for you and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day that I may test them whether they will walk in my law or not catch this I'm gonna give them what they're asking for Test them on the sixth day when they prepare what they bring in it will be twice as much as they gather daily So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel at evening You shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt and in the morning You shall see the glory of the Lord because he has heard your grumbling He's heard your grumbling against the Lord for what are we that you grumble against us. It's making it clear. It's not about us. And Moses said, when the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full because the Lord has heard your grumbling and that you grumbled against him, what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, come near before the Lord for he has heard your grumbling." Think about this. Look how many times he says this. And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord for we what are we that you are grumbling against us. Now Moses said when the Lord gives

you in the evening meat to eat and morning bread to the full because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him what are we your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, come near before the Lord for he has heard your grumbling. And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked towards the wilderness and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. And the Lord said to Moses, I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them at twilight, you shall eat meat. And in the morning, you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know That I am the lord your god Think about this I want you to see Israel's grumbling. It wasn't against man It was against the lord They complained and complained and complained All while the lord was true to his word he sought to bring them into the land of promise let's talk about humility how many of us would have said you want to know what I'm done with this I keep trying to do things for you and is complain. What about us? Just think about it. We can make light of it. But how often do you find yourself grumbling? I'm speaking to the church. Maybe not at, I won't speak to what takes place at our jobs, but how about here? And I don't mean here as in upon this rock, I mean the church as a whole. Why don't they do this? How come they don't do that? Why is Pastor Will saying this? Why is Pastor Will doing that? There's always grumbling. And just as the scripture said that the Lord here, often here as well. And so we grumble, we grumble, we grumble, and then we're met with something that we need. No sooner after we receive it, we grumble, we grumble, we grumble.

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I want you to think about this.

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When I was asked what section of scripture we were going to be going through today, I said, oh, we're going to start at verse number 14. And we're setting up the order of service for today. And we'll get through 18. And so Yeshua, I said in positive, we won't get past grumbling. I thought about my father. And I thought about the obstacles in his way. And I thought about countless other people that I have encountered, who I just never see complaining about anything. Here's the beauty, it doesn't mean everything in their life is okay. It means they accept where they are and they accept what's taking place. You see, like my grandkids sitting at the table, it wasn't enough that I had an iPad, I don't have the same updates he has on his iPad. Hold it, it's not that I don't have the updates he has, it's that I don't have this, and it goes on, and it goes on, and it goes on. It's not their fault. We live in a world where everything we want is right there. So we quickly complain when things don't go the way we want them to go. The waitress doesn't show up at your table, hey, I'm notorious for that, I'm not gonna lie, okay? They show up at the table, and then they don't come back if I say yeah you know I'll take a sweet tea and they come back 30 minutes later with the sweet tea I got attitude let's just be honest okay so it's not that big of a deal they should give you better service oh and who are you who are you well I'm paying for it with the money God enabled you to me you do know that they're working right and you don't know what's going on in their life that day when they're inside they're serving you. Well it's still their job. They should give good customer service. I agree. And you should be a bond servant of Christ serving them instead of waiting for them to wait on you. Listen, okay that sounds all well and good Pastor Wood, but you're just saying that we should never complain about anything? No, I didn't say that. Paul said do all things Without complaining. So if you want to write somebody send it in care of the Apostle Paul, okay, but don't send it to me. Okay Paul said do all things and IE we know Paul is writing on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. So God said The Lord said when you're grumbling and when you're complaining against me. But what if they're crooked, foul, and wrong? It doesn't matter. No institution, no government has been set up that God doesn't know about. I know exactly what I'm doing, how I'm doing it, why I'm doing it, and how it's going to work out in the end. So rather than complaining, why don't you get with the program and let me work in you. In other words, work out your salvation. Instead of complaining about your

salvation, work it out This is the picture that Paul is trying to paint for the believers He wants them to understand something in Israel is The perfect example for us to look at God didn't say okay. That's it. I'm done with you He continued but so did they all the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of sin by stages according to the commandments of the Lord and camped at Rephidim but there was no water for the people to drink therefore the people quarrel with Moses and said give us water to drink and Moses said to them why do you quarrel with me why do you test the Lord but the people thirsted there for water and they and the people grumbled against Moses and said why did you bring us out to Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst. Didn't we just go through this? Did you not just walk through the Red Sea? Did you not complain because the water was not, you weren't able to drink it? And did I not give you sweet water? Did you not complain about food? I rained bread down from heaven. And now here we are again, we're moving through and now there's no water and again you immediately begin to complain. At what point do you not accept God knows what he's doing? God knows exactly what I have need of. Notice what Moses says, why do you test the Lord? You're not testing me. I didn't make the provision when the water became sweet. I didn't make the provision when the bread rain from heaven. I didn't make the provision when the flesh you were eating, the quail that he sent. I didn't make those provisions. They were all made by God. So Moses cried to the Lord, what shall I do with this people? What shall I do? They're almost ready to stone me. And the Lord said to Moses, pass on before the people, take you with some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink it. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, Is the Lord among us or not think about this Moses said I'm done with him I'm done with him God says hold on hold on just take the staff go to the rock strike it water will come out see how quickly we get fed up with people how quickly we Moses knows and I complain it against me, but I'm tired listen to it Ever been in the house with somebody who just complains over and over and over again Almost you can you know I love the I love the old King James gird up your loins You got a gird up your loins before you get home Or before you go to work you sit next to that person at work, and they're complaining about everything No matter where you go. It's like you see everything negative, what we call those the pessimists, glasses half empty instead of being half full. What am I talking about being pessimistic or optimistic? What I'm talking about is being content. It's being content with what God does in our lives because it is, it's one of those things where people complain so much, you start complaining about the person complaining. I just wish they'd just shut up. And he said, ho ho ho, you complaining? No, I'm not complaining. I mean you complain it I'm complaining about you complaining Think about it It becomes really really difficult. What happens when that starts to happen remember this unity Remember what Paul's been saying have the same mind the same love Moses he's tired of the people. They're complaining, they're complaining, he's going to the Lord. They're grumbling, they're grumbling, they're grumbling. Yet the Lord is still there. He's still showing them. Love it. God is faithful. Everything they needed, God kept providing. How quickly we forget. Remember back in Exodus 13 to 1321 as they are going through the Red Sea, the scripture says, and the Lord went before them by day and a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way and by night in the pillar of fire to give them light that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day, the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people. It's a beautiful picture. God doesn't lead us. They're complaining and God's right there. He's leading them. He's protecting them. He's guiding them. And they're grumbling every step of the way. Wouldn't we stop to think, well, I remember I was going through and God showed up in this. I remember when that was happening and God showed up in that. God's always continued to be there. He's always delivered me. Beloved, the Lord is the deliverer. And because of that, He assumes the responsibility of delivering us. In the sending of His Son, He assumed the responsibility in delivering the Israelites. He assumed the responsibility of taking him to a land flowing with milk and honey, a land he promised. Do you see it? God made a promise. In his sovereignty, he was at work, but he still needed them to walk it out. Remember? God's sovereignty, man's responsibility. We work out as

God works in. The Lord tells Moses to strike the rock and the water begins to pour out. The patience God has with us. Chad used the word the other night in Bible God is long-suffering, not desiring that any perish, but that all come to repentance, as Peter records for us in his letter.

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That's who he is.

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His desire is that we trust him, that we come to him. Now the Israelites, they're nearing the promised land. Let me show you the impact complaining had on following the will of the Lord. Numbers chapter number 11, verse number 1. Numbers chapter 11 and verse number 1, And the people complained, catch that, and the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled. Numbers 11 one. And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes. And when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled. What misfortune?

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They were slaves who are now set free

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on the way to the promised land, the Lord promised Abraham in the fulfillment of his covenant and they were complaining about their misfortune again reminds me my two grandsons fighting over an update while both of them have an iPad better yet I'm still trying to figure out what 18 months got one and I love watching it too because that little finger be moving You sit back and you look and again I'm telling you a kid can or can't have something as long as you're responsible with you're doing as a parent we need to make sure that we understand what's needful and what isn't. My grandson came to me said grandpa let me show you something. He puts his iPad up boom takes me straight to the Bible lab boom takes me straight to the Bible boom takes me straight to a passage boom starts saying grandpa look at this right here I'm like that's what I'm talking about having the word at your fingertips but I still want him to have this word at his fingertips and so here's the picture the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes when Lord heard it his anger was kindled and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp then the people cried out to Moses and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down. So the name of the place was called Terba, because the fire of the Lord burned among them. Get this, finally God said that's it. Moses had his fill with them a while back, but God was still patient. They're still complaining, and finally the Lord's anger is kindled. Now they're crying out to Moses to cry out on our behalf, and Moses who was frustrated with him then cries out on their behalf and the Lord stops Think about this picture as they travel through the wilderness they met adversity and they complained about it They didn't stop long enough to acknowledge the hand of the Lord guiding and providing They complained they grumbled they complained they grumbled they complained they grumbled and then the Lord said enough and poured out his anger This got their attention because they cried out to Moses. Beloved, God will get your attention. He will get your attention. He didn't destroy them. Destroy the outlying parts of the camp. It's like when you tell your kid, that's enough. That's enough. We've, as a church, in the 21st century, have complained enough. It's time for us to work out our salvation. In verse number four, this is what happens next, when the rabble that was among them had a strong craving and the people of Israel also wept again and said oh that we had meat to eat they get hungry they complain they get they they don't have something to drink they complain listen I get it well you haven't eaten all day sometimes it's kind of rough and we make light of it and I get it people in my house can get a little can get a little uptight

when they haven't had something to eat But beloved let's just make sure we understand. We just haven't eaten that day We complain like we haven't eaten all year Again I get it But if I excuse that then why can't excuse some of the other stuff

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He said do all things without grumbling

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not some grumbling. Not some. So I listen to all the different things that people tell me aren't a matter of sin and I sit back and I go to myself I'm not so sure about that. But what am I supposed to say? Look, we don't get the... we don't... we don't get to just dismiss because of who or a disposition. When he says do all things without grumbling and place all things so if you're hungry you're hungry you don't get to complain. You don't get to have a bad disposition because of it. And you don't get to excuse it and say, it's OK. It's not a sin. Because he said, do all things without grumbling and complaining. So I want you to think about this, right? Because we dismiss things. But everyone struggles with different things. So what you dismiss as not a big deal can be huge to somebody else. Or what they're doing, which you think is a big deal. Beloved, we have to be able to come underneath the Word of God. Remember, work out your salvation. We keep thinking, what do you mean? You work out your salvation in areas like that. In areas of forgiveness. In areas of this, areas of that. We all say, I work out my salvation by avoiding the big sins. No, you work out your salvation by letting God work out what he worked in. When you hear Jesus complain, foxes have holes and the birds have nests but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. He didn't say, man I ain't got no place to live. I didn't eat today. When he was with a woman at the well, he hadn't eaten. They went into the city to get him something to eat. He's there at the well. He said, I have food you know not of. He didn't complain. This strikes closer to home than we like because we're a nation of complainers. I'll be the first person to say, I'm not talking to you guys. I was preaching, I'm preaching in the mirror. I'm talking to me. We're a nation of complainers and we justify it. And then after we complain, which often leads into an argument depending on who you're complaining with or to or about, then half the day is gone or an hour or 30 minutes. Now we're ready to get right back to where we were. Can I tell you something? All we're doing is delaying something.

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Get the picture.

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They wept. Oh, that we had meat to eat. Hold it. They didn't stop there. Oh, man, we remember the fish we ate in Egypt. Cost nothing. The cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, the garlicks. Sound Italian. Mike, you got me, right? And so you think about this, right? Sounds like a good sauce. And they're just sitting there just thinking about it. But think about what they said. It cost them nothing. They were slaves. Notice how your mind goes and you start with what you want, right? It's a savory, it don't look that bad, right? All of a sudden, like we're out here in the middle of nowhere, you know, you've been giving me this bread, it's been falling down, it's a little stale, it's getting a little dry, ain't got no gravy with it, all right? I remember the melons though, boy, that melon,

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ooh, boy, that melon was sweet.

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You remember the leeks though? Man, those leeks, I used to cut them,

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shh, shh, shh, shh, shh, shh, shh, shh, shh, shh.

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I remember the onions, I remember the leeks, I remember all that stuff. We out here in the middle of the wilderness. Now mind you, God's provided every step of the way. But now our strength is dried up and there's nothing at all but this man that we're looking at. It's a trip. That's all Complaining, complaining, discontent. Why? Not because the Lord wasn't providing, because he wasn't doing what they wanted.

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That's what happens.

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When the Lord isn't doing what we want, we start to not trust him in doing the things we need. There was this growing unbelief now. That's the impact of complaining. All of a sudden it's like, I don't know why I can't provide. He's not providing He's not gonna, but I don't think he can provide it before long you complain long enough And you just start doubting every single why we are in the first place. We'd be better off going back to Egypt So happens when you keep complaining keep complaining unbelief is always looking for a way in over and over and over again. Here's the impact. They reached the promised land. They sent in the 12 spies to check it out. The spies come back. Verse 27, we came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, excuse me, and said, let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it. Then all the men who had gone up with him said, we are not able to go up against the people for they are stronger than we are. So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out saying, the land through which we have gone to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants and all the people that we saw in it are of Great height they're afraid of the inhabitants there They said we can't take it. Here's what's interesting Every adversity they faced God made a provision for Yet here they are at the brink of the promised land and they're looking at their ability as if they've gotten to this point Who gave you the water? Better yet, who parted the Red Sea? Better yet, who sent the plague? Who parted the Red Sea? Who empowered you to cross? Who gave you the water? Who gave you the bread from heaven? Who kept taking care of you every time you were met with adversity? Who was there? It wasn't your ability, it was always mine. So the only thing you're complaining against is me.

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Get the picture.

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This is the picture that's being painted. We can't take it. Oh, your ability, you got yourself here. Numbers 14, one. Then all the congregation raised a loud cry and the people wept that night. And the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them,

would that we had died in the land of Egypt or would that we had died in this wilderness? Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt? And they said to one another, let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt. Isn't this something? See what constant complaining starts to do? You start thinking that, listen, I'm better off of what I had. Yet they were crying to be set free. Lord, remember us. And then the Lord remembers them. Then every step of the way, they're complaining. So they get to the place where now they don't have what they want. They doubt God's able to deliver, even though God's been delivering this whole time. The only person they see is themselves. And they say, listen, we're better off if we just go back. I tell you, sounds a lot like us today. We keep complaining, we keep complaining, we keep complaining, and before long, what God brought us out of, we find ourselves right back in all over again. They said let us choose a leader and go back. They concluded they'd be better off dead. I want you to think about this. Israel's grumbling didn't cease and it produced an unbelief that led to their disobedience. A journey that should have only taken 40 days took 40 years. Their grumbling proved they didn't trust God. Psalms 106, 24, then they despised the pleasant land, having no faith in his promise. They murmured in their tents and did not obey the voice of the Lord. This entire Psalm speaks about Israel's sin and how they continue to forget the Lord's faithfulness through their constant complaining, it ultimately revealed they had no faith in the Lord to fulfill His promises. He wasn't giving them what they wanted. Instead of believing God in their dissatisfaction, in their dissatisfaction, they not only didn't believe Him, they began to disobey Him. You know, those people who just sit around and all they do now is complain? Again, you see it. You see it at work. You see it in neighborhoods. You see it in government. You see it in schools. And you see it in church. We complain. You see, they sit around in their tents. We sit around in our homes And over dinner over lunch we start to complain, but hope it's okay Because this is what we say well. I'm only speaking the truth I'm only speaking the truth so it's not it's not complaining. Are you gonna do something about it? Well? No, then you're complaining If you're gonna speak it walk in it If you see it on it Work out your salvation. My salvation is your salvation. Your salvation is my salvation. We're one body So I'm just saving me. Can I tell you something you already got a problem Selfishness is everything Christ was not He came to seek and save that which was lost. So with you been found he's using you to go find somebody else

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He's working through you. He's working through us. And if we stop complaining

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long enough, we can actually be useful to God. But instead, it's easier for us to sit around and talk about what's not being done instead of picking up the phone, calling people together, and say, this is what we need to do. But you know, in order to do that, we'd have to stop complaining and start doing. We'd have to start sacrificing. We'd have to start giving of ourselves. And we get afraid to do things like that because it's going to cost us. So I'd rather complain than do something. I'd rather sit in my tent and murmur and that's exactly what they did. How many times have we done that? We place expectations on God to fulfill His promises the way we desire. Oh, He promised to bring us but He's not doing it the way I want Him to do it. And it's interesting to me, when things don't operate according to what we expect, we immediately complain and refuse to believe the very passage we quote. And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good. For those who are called according to his purpose, we love to quote it. But do we believe it? Because if you believe all things work together for the good, then you won't complain in what situation you're in. If you truly believe that, then why would you complain? Listen, I don't know why I'm in this, but I know God's gonna work it together for good, so while I'm in it, I'm going to operate in love, I'm gonna operate in faithfulness, I'm gonna operate in loyalty, I'm gonna operate in trust. This is how I'm gonna operate. In other words, I'm taking those, what do we like to call it today? Negative thoughts. I'm getting rid of the negative thoughts and I'm gonna replace them with positive thoughts. Let me help you, lose that.

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Lose that.

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You wanna replace your thoughts with his word. You wanna renew your mind.

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Can I tell you something?

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You're not, everything's not gonna work out great. You're not gonna have this fantastic, where there's no problems, you don't have any adversity, any trials, no problems. If that's happening, something's wrong. But the scriptures are clear to us. In this world you have trials. Those who desire, those who serve God will suffer persecution. The scriptures are replete with telling us what we're going to go through. You don't have to look for it, it's coming. But you want to know what? I don't have to complain when it happens. I know it's going to work out for my good. Why? Because all things work together for the good. We don't want to endure pain, yet we do. We don't want to go through anything, yet we find ourselves in the midst of stuff. At what point do we just stop and just say, I don't know why I'm going through this right now and I don't know how it's going to end and it may not end the way I want it to end, but I know it's gonna work together for the good. I don't think it, I know it. So I'm not gonna complain. When disease hits your family and you have every reason to sit back and say you want to know what I don't understand and you want to complain about what's happening or this diagnosis or this that and you want to complain about what's taking place and I don't understand it and what you need to understand is that all things work together. How can this work together for the good? How can a man who did nothing being nailed to the cross work together for the good? Because it's a part of my plan. We need to understand there's things outside our pay grade and we need to be okay with it. Understand that your benevolent King, your God, your Lord, he says I got you. This isn't it. If this were heaven, then I can understand why you'd be complaining. If this were heaven, you'd be like, this is it? Then I could understand why you might be frustrated. But this isn't it. Sickness will be no more. But guess what? We keep thinking no more sickness, see my family, love my family, all these great different things, all is fantastic. Listen, we're losing sight. That's not what you need to be focused on. Do you know you'll be in the presence of Jesus?

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Forever

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to worship him See Everything else falls by the wayside And I can see my king So I know what he's working out of my life right now It's for my good Young people it's it's brutal out there But it's always been brutal. It's not just brutal today. It was brutal when I was growing up and as you just heard me tell you the story of my father. Up until maybe three, six months ago, my mom and my dad and myself really weren't talking that much. Some of you are aware of that. The last six months or so, things have shifted in an amazing way. They were over for Thanksgiving dinner and I can't remember the last time they were over my house for Thanksgiving dinner. One of my grandmother, one of my other granddaughters kept looking at my mom, which is her great-grandma's pretty funny. And so seeing them there, when I called my dad Monday, I said, hey, I got a question. I remember

polio and everything you went through. And I started asking him questions. I never knew that he was actually living in Tucson, Arizona. That was new to me, I didn't know that. And so as he was telling me about it, he was leaving town and so he called me the next day to finish telling me to ask him questions and I wanted to make sure I got some things right. And my mom said, you don't know what you did for your father. That's what he was talking about. And she said, you made his day, his month, his week, you made his year. He hung up the phone and he said, my son thought about me. And I sat and she said, all he kept saying was, my son thought about me. I love my mama. And my mama love her some Alex. And so the picture that I'm trying to get us to see is that we have to get to a place to where we believe the very verses of Scripture that we hold on to. We are to work out our salvation. What may look upside down to us is right side up to God. And we can never forget that God is going to allow things in our life. But we have to remember Hebrews 10, 23, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for he who promised is faithful. What I pray you're beginning to see is that complaining is not just about being negative in the moment. It's a sin against the Holy God because it's rooted in selfishness and unbelief. This is what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10.1, For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them and the rock was Christ nevertheless with most of them catch this God was not pleased for they were overthrown in the wilderness I know I've been reading large sections of scripture this morning but the context is important see Paul clearly says God was not pleased with Israel then he goes on to illustrate why the Lord wasn't pleased. 1 Corinthians 10.7 he says, Now these things took place as an example, as an example for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were. As it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual morality as some of them did. And 23,000 fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents. Catch verse 10. Nor grumble as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example but they were written down for instruction of whom the end of the ages has come. Paul provides a short list of things that were not pleasing to God as an example. But catch that. We must learn that idolatry, sexual morality, testing God, and get this, grumbling, is sinful and brings damning consequences. Remember, we work out our salvation. We are to work it out towards that which is good and pleasing to God. Disposition always speaks to our heart. We're saying to God, you're not in control. You lack the power. You can't work this out for good. It's an affront to his sovereignty, to his holiness. Before you say, well, that's not me, to think about how Paul concludes this section. Again, I'm at 1 Corinthians 10. Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed,

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lest he fall.

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No temptation is overtaking you that is not common to man. God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape that you may be able to endure it. Paul's saying that just when you think you're not in the idolatry camp, the immorality camp, the testing God camp, or dare I say, the grumbling camp. Be careful because you can easily fall into any one of them. Remember when you're complaining about a problem or people you're still complaining against God and his providential will. He knows exactly what he's doing. So how do we avoid becoming complainers? Bring it to a close by recognizing that God's will always provides a way for us to see his will and his purpose in every situation. We just have to look for it. We need to look for God's sovereignty, human responsibility. When things are beyond our ability to handle. And let me just say this. It's always beyond our ability to handle it, remember God said, I provide an escape. God did work in us both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Grumbling isn't

an Old Testament concept. They grumbled against Jesus, John 6 41. So the Jews grumbled about him because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven. And then when those who claim to be followers of Jesus heard him say, truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. John six 53, John records the response of the followers and of Jesus verse 60. This is a hard thing. The follower said, who can listen to it? But Jesus knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this said to them, do you take offense at this? In their grumbling, which was their unbelief, they all turned back except the 12. They were not pleased with what Jesus said. And in their grumbling, they displayed their lack of trust in God's will. And before we close, a quick look at disputing. Greek word, it means to reason through, to think out carefully, weighing. In Greek writing, it describes a man deliberating with himself, calculated inner reasoning, be it good or bad. It's where we get our English word dialogue. So in a positive sense, it's reasoning within ourselves, and it's good. However, when we set our minds to debate with the Lord, when we're juxtaposing our thoughts and opinions against His, can I just tell you, that's intellectual rebellion. I think I know more than God. Complaining is more of an emotional response to circumstances or situations that we don't like. It's not the reason, it's not that reasoning is bad, but when we begin to debate the will of the Lord, arguing with God about His ways or purposes, this displays our discontentment with our circumstances, or should I say again, with this providential will in our lives well I don't know why I'm going through this you don't need to know why you're going through what he does you need to trust him through it quit trying to figure everything out can I tell you something I've lost a lot of sleep and I got a lot of gray hair trying to figure things out and I'm really just trying to learn and I'm barely scratching the surface of what it means to just lay and trust him to not complain about what's going on and to accept it and then to praise Him for it. Chad, teaching the other night, said something at the end of Bible study. And I was able to come and just sit and just listen. And the next morning I was going to... My granddaughter was in receiving a treatment and I was here at the church and I was on my way to go do something and then I got spun around to come back here because I couldn't go to where I was going. So I got here to the church and I was just sitting here Thursday morning by myself just sitting in that chair Jordan's sitting in. And I went to pray. And as I went to pray, this one thing I look upon, it just kept popping in my head. Why is that? Where is that from? I know it's a scripture word. Psalm 27. So I go to Psalm 27 and I just stood up and I started reading. And so I texted to my granddaughter's mom and then she texts back. I'm still here at the clinic. But Psalms 119.71 is a psalm I was reading. And so I read it. It's interesting because that psalm was talking about still praising God in the midst of what

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you're going through.

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This is how Chad closed the study. Are we thankful? And I thought to myself, I said to her, I'm always thankful that God carried me through it. And I'm praying that God will continue to carry me through the things I go through. But I can't remember if I've ever stopped and thought, I'm thankful you brought that into my life. I'm thankful that you allowed that heavy burden. I'm thankful for that. I'm thankful when things are horrible, I don't sit back and think, I'm thankful. When my daughter went through her accident two years ago, I can't remember ever saying, I'm thankful she went through that I never those words didn't come up I'm thankful that he carried her I'm thankful he protected her I'm thankful that he kept her life I'm thankful for all of that but I never once thought I'm thankful for the accident but as she stands here saved sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit with her husband who loves God I'm thankful for the accident and I never thought about that I never thought about that till that night and sometimes beloved it's just good to sit underneath the word and not as the teacher but as forever the student to learn to grow so that I'm not complaining we all complain it's an old How's it go again? Well, we might not hear that song today, because it's not

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1:07:15

coming to mind.

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1:07:16

Amen.

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1:07:17

Give me a favor.

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1:07:20

If you could find that song, it's called I Won't Complain. It's an old gospel song.

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1:07:30

I want you to think about this. Thank you, Alonda.

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1:07:33

I was going to sing with you, but I would have tore it up.

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1:07:40

I want you to think about this. We have to make sure that we trust what God's doing in our lives, no matter what it is. If we can stop complaining in the small things that we think are immaterial, let me help you, it won't become second nature when the things come up on you that you can't handle. In Luke chapter 9 verse 46, the Scriptures record, an argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their heart, took a child and put him by his side." Jesus knew what was in man. Their inward reasoning led to their outward disputing. So in other words, when we continue to complain about our circumstances, the disputing comes naturally. And can I tell you, God's not pleased with it. Spurgeon writes this, do not dispute with God. Let him do what seems good to him. Do not dispute with your fellow Christians. Do not raise railing accusations against them. When Calvin was told that Luther had spoken ill of him, he said, let Luther call me devil if he please. I will never say of him, but that he is a most dear and valiant servant of the Lord. Do not raise intricate and naughty plots, points by way of controversy. Remember you have adversaries upon whom to use your sword, and therefore, there is little need that you should turn their edges by dashing at the armor of your fellows. Do not dispute even with the world. The heathen philosophers always sought occasion for debate. Let it be yours to testify what God has told you. But do not court controversy. Do not be ashamed to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. But never do it in a spirit of mere debating. Never because you wish to gain a victory, but only because you would tell out what God has bidden you to reveal. I said, we can't dispute. We should not grumble. That's the focus. When we grumble against one another, we're disrupting the unity in spirit. James 5, 9 says, do not grumble against one another so that you may not be judged. Behold, the judge is standing at the door. The natural tendency of our fallen flesh is when we are going through a trial or enduring persecution, we often lash out at those closest to us. Out of frustration, we begin to complain about everything and everyone. However, James urges us to stop complaining. And I love what he does. He reminds us that the true judge is coming. In other words, you sure that's how you want to be found? Sitting in your tent, murmuring and complaining, grumbling and disputing? When our Savior and Lord returns, for it is he who truly judges, we might want to make sure we're not found in that place. It's easy for me to stand here and

say, we all complain. It's a reality, but it shouldn't be. Grumbling is not some superficial sin. MacArthur says, it's complaint expressed in a negative attitude. It's an emotional rejection of God's will. It's an emotional rejection of God's providence. It's an emotional rejection of your circumstances that comes through in mumbling, grumbling, griping verbiage. It is emotional reaction of the circumstances God has chosen for your life and the requirements he has for your conduct." End quote. The judge is standing at the door. This should cause us to stand and be on alert that we are to do all things without grumbling or disputing. Next week, I'll show you why. Stand with me.

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1:11:44

..... It's a good day. midnight's in today so I I hope you say thank you Lord I've been loud on, but thank you Lord I've been talked about, but thank you Lord I've been misunderstood, but thank you Lord You might be sick, while you're rockin' with pain, but thank you Lord that bills are due. Don't know where the money's comin' from, but thank you Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord. I won't, I won't complain. I've been so good to me. He's been good to me.

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1:15:51

Let me tell you something, we keep on going, we're going to have church all over again up in here. And you're going to hear me preach in a way you ain't never heard me preach before. So we're just going to say, thank you Lord. Thank you Lord. Thank you Lord. We won't, we won't complain. Father we thank you for this version, Lord. And we thank you for the word, Father, of God that is poured into our hearts. We thank you Lord, that we cannot understand it, we cannot explain it. We don't see things working out the way we believe they should. We have to trust that you are sovereign, that you are over all things, that what you allow, what takes place, what we go through, what we endure, Father, we won't complain because we know you are on the throne, you are leading us, you are guiding us, you are sanctifying us, you are working out what you worked in, oh God, and so we thank you this morning that we can come together as a body of believers, we thank you Lord for what you continue to do, we thank you Lord, we thank you Lord, we thank you Lord for your mercy and grace. And we won't, hallelujah, we won't, hallelujah, we won't, we won't complain to the glory of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus, we pray. And let the body of Christ say, amen. Hug somebody before you leave here today. I'm going to tell you. I'm going to tell you.

4

1:17:17

you

Transcribed with Cockatoo