**Things you need – Avoid Discontentment**

**Phil 2:12 -14**

**Focal Truth: Believers must avoid discontentment as God’s people in the world**

1. **The command to avoid discontentment in mind & words**
2. Work out your salvation with fear and trembling – Phil 2:12
3. God is at work in you to will and work for His good pleasure – Phil 2:13
4. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, proving you are blameless children of God in the world – Phil 2:14 -15
5. Grumbling = secret displeasure not openly expressed
6. Disputing = inward reasoning, deliberating in the mind

 Matt. 15:19 – for out of the heart come evil thoughts (disputing), murder, adulteries, fornications,

 thefts, false witness, slanders

 Rom. 1:21 – for even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they

 became futile in their speculations(disputing), and their foolish heart was darkened

1. Lam. 3:38 – 40 – is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and ill go forth? Why should any living mortal, or any man, offer complaint in view of his sins? Let us examine and probe our ways and let us return to the Lord.
2. **The sinfulness of discontentment**
3. Ex. 15:24 – So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, what shall we drink?
4. Ex. 16:2 – the whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron
5. Ex. 16:8 – for the Lord hears your grumblings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumblings are not against us but against the Lord
6. Ex. 17:3 – but the people thirsted there for water, and they grumbled against Moses and said, Why, now have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock?
7. Ex 17:6 – 7 – behold I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink…He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord saying, Is the Lord among us or not?
8. Num. 14:2 – all the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in the wilderness!
9. Num. 14:3 – why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder, would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?
10. Num. 14:26 – 27 – The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, how long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me.
11. Num. 14:28 -29 – say to them, as I live, says the Lord, just as you have spoken in my hearing, so I will surely do to you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me.
12. John 6:41 – therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, I am the bread that came down out of heaven.
13. Jude 14 -16 – it was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam prophesied, saying, Behold the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him. They are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts, they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.
14. **The results of discontentment**
15. You rebel against God’s work in your circumstances
16. You do not trust God’s ways in your circumstances
17. You lose precious time in your short life
18. You lose your discipline in your walk with God
19. You experience sinful emotions that lead to sinful actions
20. You practice unthankfulness rather than thankfulness to God
21. You become vulnerable to greater temptations to sin
22. You lose the comfort of what you have been given by God in your current circumstances
23. You gain nothing from discontentment
24. You cause others to avoid you

**Things to Remember**

1. The greater the blessings of God, the greater the sin of discontentment for His blessings
2. Discontented complaining sours the soul and poisons relationships
3. Discontentment toward God is the greatest act of unbelief
4. Murmuring hearts become rebellious sinners
5. Discontentment is ungratefulness for God’s gifts
6. The self-centered always complain of their conditions
7. The murmurer believes all mercies are bitterness, he tastes bitterness in every mercy

**Daily Use**

1. Do you continually grumble against God’s work in your life?
2. Do you complain openly to others about the circumstances of your life?
3. Examine your heart & confess your discontentment to the Lord
4. Thank God for your circumstances – praise Him for His goodness to you
5. Think about the good from the bad that God has done in your life – rejoice!

*“There are two things for which you should never grumble, first at the things which you can change, and second, at the things at which you cannot change. If you can change them, then change them, if you cannot trust God. If you do such you will never grumble.”*