**Lessons from a Lockdown**

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**Day 7**

**Philippians 2:14-18**

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

*Questions for Personal Reflection:*

1. What do you normally grumble or argue about? Why can you do instead of grumbling or arguing?
2. How do you react when we see people do crooked and evil things? How should you react?
3. What are some specific things you can do every day to be a light to be a light to your families and the people around you?
4. Are you always aware of how you affect others? How can you be more aware?
5. At the end of our lives, what do you hope you won’t regret? Why?

*Insight:*

Doing *everything* without grumbling or arguing is difficult. Isn’t it easy to find fault in others or things you are not responsible for? Now grumbling sounds bad and maybe that can be avoided. The Greek word translated as grumbling means “muttering” or “murmuring.” It’s like when a child is having fun playing and a parent asks him to a chore. He may obey but mutter some words under his breath. But what about arguing? Maybe *some things* can be done without arguing but everything? This is a hard teaching for us who love to argue. But is all argument bad? Didn’t Apollos vigorously refute his Jewish opponents in public debate to prove that Jesus was the Christ (Ac18:28)? Didn’t Paul argue with Barnabas (Ac 15:39)? Didn’t Paul oppose Peter (Gal 2:11)? So, what does Paul mean here? If we look at the immediate context, Paul said this right after talking about working out their salvation with fear and trembling and to act in order to fulfill God’s good purpose. Furthermore, in other translations the word used is “disputing” which is like questioning whether something is true. So perhaps what Paul means is that Christians should not grumble or argue about everything good they ought to do to work out their salvation and to act according God’s purpose. In other words, if God calls us to do something, we should not grumble because it is inconvenient or difficult for us. We shouldn’t argue with God whether what he is asking us to do is right.

Paul describes the world we live in as warped (other translations use the word twisted or perverse) and crooked. We live in a dark world and we should not be surprised at the wickedness that people commit. That is why Christians need to shine like stars. Stars produce light and for centuries they have served as guides. A sailor can navigate the world by looking at the stars. So Christians should provide light and guidance in this dark world. As lights we need to show them the way. We do this with our words and by our example. But as we shine our light brightly, we do it not to bring glory to ourselves but to guide people to God.

One light is better than nothing. But the more lights the better. Instead of a lone star, we should strive to be a constellation. So let us encourage each other to be lights. We can start with those closest to us and then move outward. Each time we are tempted to get upset with the darkness of the world, we should channel our energies on being a light instead. In fact, the more darkness we see, the more motivated we should be to be brighter lights. We can only fight darkness with light.

One way we can shine brightly is by holding firmly to the word of life. The more we live our lives according to the Word of God, the brighter our light becomes. When people see how our obedience to the Word protects and strengthens us, they would be attracted to it. When people realize the peace and joy that we feel as we follow God’s commands, they would want to obey too.

Paul said that on the day of Christ or the day when Jesus comes back to judge the world, he would want to say that he did not run or labor in vain. He did not want to have any regrets. At the end of his life, we wants to be able to rejoice. Let’s imitate Paul’s heart and make each day meaningful and without regrets. In a world where hundreds of people are dying everyday we should learn to live each day with gratitude to God. If we live each day to glorify God, we will be ready when we meet him, whether that day comes sooner or later than we think.

The lock down has no effect on star light.