

Do all things without murmurings and disputings

It is said that Paul wrote this letter from prison (chapter 1:13&14) and that his primary purpose in writing was to thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent him upon learning of his detention in Rome (1:5, 4:19). However he made use of the occasion to report on his circumstances, to encourage the Philippians to stand firm in the face of persecution and to rejoice regardless of circumstances (1:27-30; 4:4), to exhort them to humility and unity (2:1-11:4:2-5), to commend Timothy and Epaphroditus to the ecclesia and to give warning against Judaisers (legalists) and antinomians (libertines) among them (chapter 3).

Do all things without murmurings and disputings.

The word for murmuring is gong **goggusmos** gong-goos-mos' From **G1111**; a grumbling: - grudging, murmuring.

And for disputing **dialogismos** From **G1260**; discussion, that is, (internal) consideration (by implication purpose), or (external) debate: dispute, doubtful (-ing), imagination, reasoning, thought.

So both of these are undermining influences.

In reading this letter we are to apply Paul's words of guidance as if they were written to us, as with all scripture. This means we are to be new people. After baptism our former self is to be buried and we, as new persons, show forth (reflect) the behaviour of Christ. This he elaborates in the earlier verses (chapter 2v5-11). He emphasises that we are to be new people, having been baptised that we become obligated to our Father in Heaven.

This realisation must be a power in our lives

Phil 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

It is quite clear that we cannot take our calling for granted but remember as The Lord Jesus stated:

Matt 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

But we are not without help for we have our brothers and sisters to confide in and to share the Word:

Mal 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

So it is for us to realise: let it enter our hearts and minds

1Jn 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

The nation of Israel, specially chosen by God, failed dismally to realise this and were noted for their murmuring and complaining. It was because they were always looking back and that with rose tinted glasses. But we have warnings against this as from Paul for instance in:

1Co 10:1-5 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

These things are written:

Rom 15:4-6 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thus it is for us to truly separate from our former friends. This was not difficult for me when at 17 I saw an advert: "The signs of the time, can you discern them?". But once I spoke to them of these things they didn't want to know me.

Brother Ken