

Philippians 2:14-18

How Should We Act in a Time of Strife?

Paul writes, "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 in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am 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."

Every Day with God

If it's not one thing it's another. How many times did my father or mother utter those words? How about your parents? How about you? If we are experts at anything, we are experts at complaining. Do you think there is a lot of tension in the world right now? You can almost cut it with a knife. With all of this strife, how are God's children supposed to act?



Photo: Just as we are hopeful that the lilacs will bloom each year, we need to even more hopeful that Christ will rescue us in the time of trials.

Paul writes, "Do all things without grumbling ..." Does grumbling and complaining and disputing ever accomplish anything? True, we need to raise our voice against injustice. At the same time we need to, as Paul writes, "we need to shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life . . ."

We need to be models of positivism because we know who the word of life is and this should cause us to remain hopeful and lessen our need to grumble. When Christ died on the cross, he died with all our complaints on his shoulders. We should complain no more.

Prayer: Dear God, help me complain less and be hopeful more.