

Philippians #30

“Shining in the darkness”

Philippians 2:13-16

Exodus 14:9-14

**“Don't complain and talk about all your problems—
80 percent of people don't care; the other 20 percent
will think you deserve them.”**

Mark Twain.

Paul told the Philippians not to worry about him or his situation in prison because God was at work mightily in his ministry to advance the Gospel and encourage others to boldly witness for Jesus Christ.

Much more important than how much you were given, is what you've done with what you were given.

Under His policy of grace, God gives and man receives; God does all the work and providing, while man does all the receiving and benefitting.

Greater-grace status is maximum

spiritual growth resulting in occupation

with Jesus Christ and God the Father providing advanced capacity blessings.

In the ultimate in spiritual growth; greater-grace status, the believer receives maximum opposition from Satanic forces of evil, which only intensifies his blessings.

Advanced blessings include a total sense of security, whether in prosperity or disaster.

Spiritual growth requires strong motivation from the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit and being constantly nourished from maximum biblical truth resident in the soul.

This characterizes committed disciples; believers who cracked the maturity barrier and are heading toward ultimate goal of glorification of God to the highest degree.

To grumble or complain about any person or any circumstance is to protest against the sovereign God who wills and works all things in our lives.

No one ever reaches greater-grace without having definite historical impact and blessing by association, not only while he's alive but also after he dies.

Sin was judged at the cross and recovery from sin and carnality is often as quick as naming the sin to God; but that's not the case with evil.

No believer can have positive historical impact and be in a state of rebellion because in rebellion, he is under the influence of evil.

Paul turns the tables and says that we are God's children, living in a warped and crooked generation, so we must be careful not to grumble and argue with one another

as Israel did in the wilderness because God's people should shine in this world like stars in the dark sky, holding firm to the Word of life.

In the spiritual life, victory is followed by testing and choices.

It was a terrible witness to the nations around Israel that the God who provided a mighty deliverance would not also provide for their basic needs.

The Gentiles who were looking to justify their rebellion against God would mock Him when they heard the grumbling, arguing and complaining of His people.

A person influenced by evil is warped;

a generation influenced by evil is crooked, dishonest, even perverted or depraved.

To give light you must have light and the light is biblical truth which is reflected or given off by the mature believer, therefore, he has powerful impact in the devil's world.

Remember that greater-grace promotion is a place of great testing and when we leave spiritual adolescence, we are advancing to the most difficult stage of our spiritual life.

Thoughts come from words and concentration on the Word of God means God's thoughts become our thoughts.

For the greater-grace believer who advances to the ultimate objective, there is a decoration awaiting him; the crown

of life, a decoration which has both intensified blessings in time and in eternity that are beyond description.

Paul's objective will bring the crown of glory for leading positive believers under his ministry all the way to greater-grace.

Paul will *run in vain* unless he brings his congregation to the same spiritual status he enjoys.