

Theme: Paul calls believers to draw upon God's strength to live fruitful lives of joyful obedience.

I. Intro – the Whiners, Debbie Downer

- A. Recurring SNL skits – Joe Piscopo, Rachel Dratch
- B. Couple w/ nasal whine; downer about everything
- C. Actors often laugh – so ridiculous
- D. Unfortunately some believers like Whiners; Debbie Downer
- E. As citizens of heaven not the Whiners, Debbie D.
- F. How should our life of obedience look?

II. Obedience – Working Out Salvation

- A. Therefore – related to what has gone before (v12)
- B. Call for continued obedience (always, now, continue)
- C. Work out your salvation?
 - 1. Corporate nature (work; your; among you)
 - 2. Yet individuals must do this!
 - 3. For God provides the power first (v13)
 - 4. God provides will and energy to obey (v13)

III. Obedience – A Life of Holy Character

- A. New sentence explains how to work out salvation

B. All of these traits are opposite of Israel's failings

C. No grumbling or arguing (14; Ex 16:7; 1Co 10:10) – not God - leaders?

D. Become blameless, pure children of God (15)

E. We must live distinct from the culture – as community

IV. Obedience – Sharing the Gospel

A. We must hold fast/forth the Word of life (v16)

1. Hold fast the Word of life – no compromise

2. Hold out the Word of life - evangelism

B. Shine like stars in universe (v15; Dan 12:3)

C. We must be **in the midst** of the culture (v15 ESV)

D. In world but not of it – Israel failed (Deut 32:5)

E. We will prevail because God is giving will & power

V. Obedience – A Fruitful, Joyful Life

A. Fruitful – day of Christ, not in vain (v16)

B. A life of sacrificial service offered to God (v17)

C. A life of joy – accepted in Christ (v18)

VI. Applying the Word

A. Are we living a life of holy character?

1. Live distinct from culture as citizens of heaven?
 2. Do we grumble, complain – the Whiners?
 3. Do we live as community of witness?
- B. Are we reaching out to others with Gospel?
1. Do we share Jesus with others – word & deed?
 2. Are we in the culture – or a ghetto?
- C. Do we experience joy – even in this struggle?
1. Not fake, plastic happiness – joy
 2. Joy – sense of satisfaction/contentment in God
 3. Joy – accepted in Christ; will bear fruit!
 4. Grateful joy – or the Whiners?
- D. Are we working out our salvation – by God's power?
1. This is beyond our abilities!
 2. God will give us the will and the strength
 3. We must draw near to Him and receive

A Fruitful Life of Joyful Obedience

Philippians 2:12-18

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Communion

Romans 15:13

7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your **grumbling** against him. Who are we, that you should **grumble** against us?"

Exodus 16:7

10 And do not grumble, as some of them did-- and were killed by the destroying angel.

1 Corinthians 10:1

3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:3

15 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,

Philippians 2:15 ESV

5 They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his **children** because they are **blemished**; they are **a crooked and twisted generation**.

Deuteronomy 32:5 ESV