

Devotions for Friday, October 2, 2020
Bread for the Journey
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Light and Joy

14 Do everything without complaining and arguing, 15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. 16 Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. 17 But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. 18 Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy. 3:1 Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. (Philippians 2:14-18, 3:1 New Living Translation)

Why does one read a daily devotion? I suspect for many it is a desire to have a word to carry throughout the day. If that describes you, my goodness but Philippians is a great letter for such a word.

Consider 2:14 above, *"Do everything without complaining and arguing."* OK, I didn't say it would be an "easy word". If your desire is to live an authentic life of faith, guided by the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles, such words are not easy.

Not easy in that they do not invite us to "just be nice", not making waves when we walk through the world. These words invite us instead to *"live clean, innocent lives as children of God, **shining like bright lights** in a world full of crooked and perverse people"*. Don't let your unwillingness to complain about others and your unwillingness to argue with others be read as a sign of weakness or acquiesces. Instead let it be the light that shines on and illuminates a different path.

Paul says that the difficulty of walking that path is itself an offering to God. Even though it may be a most costly offering (Paul was aware that the cost may be his very life) it is a gift placed before God with joy. In the incredulity of that statement lies a word not for this day, but for your entire life of faith. We live in *"a world full of crooked and perverse people"*, and it is in just such a world that the light of faith will shine most brightly.

So for this day, the second of October in the year of our Lord 2020, *"Do everything without complaining and arguing"* and ask God to let your light shine bright.

In the beginning Lord, you created light. On this day let your light shine through me. Gift me with patience, a kind heart and a loving temperament. And let me know the joy that comes from being your light in a troubled world. Amen.