



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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When Complainers Complain #1700

by Joe Price

Phil 2:14-16, Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life...(NKJV)

Murmuring and grumbling is the “complaining” we are commanded not to do in this passage. It speaks especially of a secret displeasure that is not openly declared. Yet, as is the nature of whispering, such mutterings rarely remain private. They have the potential of erupting into open disputes that tarnish the “blameless and harmless” character we are to possess and present to the world. As “lights in the world” we cannot be complainers and hope to influence the lost. We ought to learn from Israel’s example and refuse to “complain, as some of them complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer” (1 Cor. 10:10). Israel’s history in the wilderness was marked by repeated complaints that angered the Lord and that destroyed many, many lives (Num. 11:1; 14:1-38; 16:1-5). Instead of being a complainer, be a fixer. Instead of murmuring behind the scenes about a problem, become part of the solution. Rather than generating disputes that undermine effectiveness in a church, in the home, or at work, illuminate the path of peace and spiritual progress by “holding fast the word of life.” When we do that, we will not be complainers, we will be lights in the world.

GOD'S GUIDANCE

By Richie Thetford

In the book of Deuteronomy we find the Israelites camped just east of the Jordan River, getting ready to cross over into the land of Canaan, a land promised to them by God. Most of the people getting ready to cross over were not alive during the time of the Exodus from Egypt and the encampment at Mount Sinai where Moses received the law. This was a new generation of Israelites and Moses takes the time to give them a comprehensive review of everything that happened during the forty years that some of them and their fathers spent in the wilderness. In his speeches, Moses stresses two things: Israel's unfaithfulness and God's faithfulness.

Israel's Unfaithfulness

Hindsight is always 20/20. If the children of Israel were alive today and had the books of Moses to read and reflect on they would no doubt be shaking their heads in shame! Time and time again God proved to them that He was guiding them and protecting them as He used Moses and Aaron to lead His children out of Egyptian bondage, crossing the Red Sea, into the wilderness toward Mt Sinai. Along the way the children of God complained and murmured, even after seeing the great and glorious miracle that God provided in the crossing of the Red Sea. This had to be an awesome sight as the thousands upon thousands of Israelites crossed safely through the Sea to the other side and once safe, looked back to see the Egyptians in hot pursuit suddenly gasping for air as the water which was parted came together and swallowed them up!

Even they were smart enough to know that this was something that just doesn't happen every day. But this was just one miracle that God provided for these Israelites as they journeyed toward the land of Canaan. Soon after this miracle they came to Marah where they were very thirsty and tired. There was water there but it was bitter and not fit to drink. They murmured and complained, yet God still provided for them. Later at Rephidim they again were thirsty and God, using Moses,

brought forth water from a rock. Over and over again Israel proved to be unfaithful in that every time something did not go just right, they would murmur and complain. Moses, in the book of Deuteronomy tries to get the Israelites to see that in times past the Israelites were unfaithful to God and tells them what the consequences were because of that unfaithfulness. When they were unfaithful, God became angry and the people were punished because they did not do God's will!

God's Faithfulness

God has always proved to be faithful, delivering on every promise that He has ever made. Again, hindsight is always 20/20. The children of Israel looking at the books of Moses would be able to see that God always provided for them and they made it hard on themselves by not having their faith firmly rooted in God. Every prophecy that has ever been prophesied has come to pass, with one more yet to be fulfilled and that is the second coming of Christ. Not once did God ever let the children of Israel down. God could always be depended upon in every situation. Moses tells the congregation of God's people in Deuteronomy about all the blessings that will be bestowed upon them if they will keep God's commandments because He has proven to be faithful!

Making Application to Our Life

Haven't we been guilty of murmuring and complaining when things did not go as we think they should have in our life? In Romans 15:4 Paul said: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." We need to turn our hindsight into foresight and look at what happened to the children of Israel. God has not changed. When we live faithful in our life toward Him, He will provide us with all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). Yet if we are disobedient, then we will be punished. Let us learn from Moses.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Ben Palmer will be traveling this week
- Porters will be traveling late this week
- Chad & Kass are returning this week
- Brenda, Richard Empey's sister, biopsy this week on a mass they found
- Carla, Brenda's Cousin is recovering in the hospital from a fractured pelvis
- Sylvia Ward, Ross's Mom, continues to improve
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment have not been successful
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Worship Schedule posted for February

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Ben Palmer

Lord's Table – Larry Thompson

Wednesday

Song Leader – Tom Mitchell

Invitation – Chad Mitchell

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM

Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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