

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Complaining

"The French complain of everything, and always." – Napoleon Bonaparte

"'Tis the voice of the sluggard; I heard him complain, you have waked me too soon, I must slumber again." – Isaac Watts

"I guess I have never been much of a complainer. You just take what is given you, and don't complain about what you can't affect." – Tom Watson

"Those who do not complain are never pitied." – Jane Austen

"As selfishness and complaint pervert the mind, so love with its joy clears and sharpens the vision." – Helen Keller

There are repeated comments made in the Old Testament about Israel constantly complaining against God, and against Moses and Aaron (Exod. 16:7; Num. 14:27,36). The KJV references it as "murmurings." It is a term that refers to grumbling.

Even in the New Testament, there are warnings pertaining to it. "Do all things without complaining and disputing" (Phil. 2:14). Again, complaining has reference to grumbling. The "disputings" refers to the debates or discussions. Obviously what he has in mind must have been factious and divisive.

Isn't it ironic that we can sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and in the next breath we grumble because things aren't to our liking? Perhaps we could draw an analogy from James about the double-minded man being unstable in all his ways (cf. James 1:6-7)? Aren't we being double-minded when we speak of our blessings and turn around and complain?

If you carefully observe the Scriptures, you will find that God was very displeased with those who constantly complained. And yes, He plainly heard their complaints. "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD..." (Exod. 16:7). "And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 'How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me' (Num. 14:26-27). "Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer" (1 Cor. 10:10).

We must be careful that we do not find ourselves drawn into complaining about every little thing. It makes our spirit bitter and it certainly will not aid in the advancement of the cause of Christ. People do not like to be around complainers!

If you read the beautiful words penned by Paul and Peter, about the fruit of the Spirit and the Christian Graces (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-11), you will not find any bitterness or complaining that is recommended to be a part of our lives. In fact, quite the opposite.