

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Bradley Box
Ralph Burleson
Blake Eddy

Closing Prayer: Josh Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Deborah Box

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study	10:00 am
Morning Worship	10:45 am
Evening Worship	5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 pm
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Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Danger of Complaining



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



A Complainer—Oh, It’s Easy to Be One!

By David Sproule

The word “complain” (or a form thereof) is found more than fifty times in the Bible, most of which are in the Old Testament. Where do you think we read the word for the first time in Scripture? The first forty years of Israel’s history after deliverance from Egypt could be summarized in one word—“complaining.”

The first time the word is found in the Bible is in the chapter right after Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry ground (apparently only three days after the event). “The people complained against Moses” (Ex. 15:24). This same sentiment is repeated numerous times in Exodus and Numbers. After the whole congregation “complained against Moses and Aaron” (Ex. 16:2), the Israelites were told, “Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord” (16:8). To complain against God’s chosen ones was to complain against God Himself!

What are some lessons that we can learn and apply from the incessant complaining of the children of Israel?

First of all, we need to recognize that when we complain, the Lord hears our complaints! Three times in three consecutive verses, Moses told Israel, “He hears your complaints against the Lord...the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him...He has heard your complaints” (Ex. 16:7-9, plus verse 12). God hears every word we speak!

Second, our complaints against others can actually be complaints against God! God made this clear to the Israelites, and it ought to make us think when we (or others around us) complain against the Lord’s people, His church or His cause.

Also, we must be cautious of the contagious nature of complaining! When the ten unfaithful spies “whom Moses sent to spy out the land...returned,” they “made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land” (Num. 14:36). Complaining is contagious—we can either catch it or give it.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

David Warren: he is fighting cancer, please be praying that his cancer will be defeated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to improve, please pray he has no further problems

Gunner Pendley: recovering from severe brain injury, please keep him and family in your prayers

Janet Spann: has severe COPD and other health problems, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Tommy Housh: was unable to have surgery due to complications with his lungs, please pray that they will be able to successfully deal with his bladder cancer

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Wyatt Spann: his health is declining every day; please keep him and his family in your prayers

Kye Jackson: (Lindsey's son) has some health problems, please pray that the doctors will be able to help him

Jeff Upton (Donna Martin's Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin's Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Tyler Upton: is in Atlanta going through rehab for injuries received in an automobile accident, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Winfred York: bladder cancer has returned, please be praying for him and Mrs. Vertie

Larry Eads: (member at Carbon Hill) diagnosed with stage 4 esophagus cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge's Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Cody & Amber Corkren's unborn baby will have tests to determine if his kidney is functioning at Children's in February, so they can come up with a plan for when he is born in March. Right now the kidney is not developed but the other kidney is working like it should.

Blake Nix (Infant Grandson of Donna Martin's Sister): having some health issues, please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Dean Key: will be having one of her carotid artery's checked in the next few days, please pray that this will not be a serious issue

Complaining has serious, serious consequences! The dire results are summarized in Numbers 11:1, "Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused." Would our complaining evoke any less?

Complaining is specifically condemned in the New Testament! Christians are commanded, "Do all things without complaining" (Phil. 2:14). "If anyone has a complaint against another," the child of God is to respond by "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another" (Col. 3:13).

Complaining is easy to do. "God, please help us!"

Obtained at: www.pblcoc.org

Unexpected Blessings

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS CAN COME FROM UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES

PAUL'S THORN IN THE FLESH
2 Corinthians 12:7-9

JOB'S LOSSES
Job 42:10

JOSEPH'S PIT
Genesis 45:1-8

PAUL & SILAS
Acts 16:25-34

JOHN'S EXILE TO PATMOS
Revelation 1:9-18

APOSTLE LET DOWN
2 Corinthians 11:33

GOLIATH'S TAUNT
1 Samuel 17:42-46

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."
Romans 8:28

DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN THE TRUTH TAUGHT IN ROMANS 8:28?

Barnes Bible Charts

How do we stay encouraged?

By David Sproule

The following question was submitted:

“How do we stay encouraged in a world full of struggles and letdowns?”

It is easy to become discouraged, if we allow the trials and circumstances of life to determine our outlook and our level of joy and peace in life. The devil would enjoy nothing less than to watch us wallow in the cares and troubles of life and avoid all the contentment and encouragement that the faithful Christian can enjoy.

So, how can the Christian stay encouraged in our world today? Many thoughts and principles could be shared, but let us limit our scope to the ones emphasized by Paul in his letter to the Christians in Philippi. If there was anyone who could have allowed the “struggles and letdowns” of this world to get him down and keep him down, it was the apostle Paul. Nonetheless, writing from prison in Rome, Paul penned a masterpiece of encouragement. Let us examine some of the key principles set forth in this book to keep us encouraged.

Focus on others before self! Read the first twelve verses of Philippians. For someone who was suffering wrongfully at the hands of his enemies, Paul did not focus on himself and his problems. Thirteen times in those first twelve verses of the book, Paul used the pronouns “you” or “your.” Mediate further on verses 3 and 4 of chapter 2: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Paul was focused on his brethren more than he was on himself, and he stayed encouraged.

Focus on the gospel! When bad things happened to Paul, he looked for how good things might be forthcoming (not for himself) for the sake of the gospel. Paul emphasized the “fellowship in the gospel” that Christians enjoy (1:5), the work in which he was engaged in “the defense and confirmation of the gospel (1:12, 17), and how Christians “strive together” when they “serve” and “labor” in the gospel (1:27; 2:22; 4:3). He focused on how the gospel might be furthered more than on his own personal struggles and letdowns, and he stayed encouraged.

Focus on Christ! Paul was “hard-pressed between” life and death, for being in the custody of the Romans, they easily could have put him to death. While the threat of harm and death would monopolize our attention and worry our hearts, Paul set his focus on the Lord and His cause. “Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (1:20-23). To focus on Christ (and stay encouraged) includes:

- Bearing fruit for Christ (1:11, 22-26). This will help you stay encouraged.
- Learning to think like Christ (2:3-5). This will help you stay encouraged.
- Remembering the sacrifice of Christ (2:6-8). This will help you stay encouraged.
- Rejoicing in Christ (3:1, 3; 4:4, 10).

There are too many to enumerate, but find these principles of personal encouragement:

- Focus on working for Christ (2:12-13).
- Focus on being positive rather than complaining (2:14-15).
- Focus on shining as a light in the midst of darkness (2:15).
- Focus on the future reward rather than the past (3:7-14).
- Focus on living as a citizen of heaven (3:20-21).
- Focus on trusting God and praying to Him about everything (4:6-7).
- Focus on the strength that Christ provides to do all things for Him (4:13).

True encouragement in life comes when one refuses to allow his level of joy to be set by the world and chooses rather to “rejoice” in his relationship “in the Lord” (3:1, 3; 4:4, 10). [Obtained at: www.pblcoc.org]

Upcoming Events

Today	Fellowship Meal	
Today	Bible Bowl {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm
January 26 th	Tri-County Singing {Here}	2:00 pm