

Why We Shouldn't Complain
Philippians 2:14-16

¹⁴ 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, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Introduction:

One of the passages of Scripture that has always fascinated me is found in 2 Tim 3:1 and following

“.But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power.

This speaks of the insatiable appetite man has for self love... It also reminds us that there will always be these problems as described, But that as we get closer and closer to the Return of Christ, these attitudes will become more and more prevalent.

So often when I talk to someone about the return of Christ and refer to the Moral decay of our society, they often respond

that this has always been around. We always had these problems. And to that point I will agree. But Scriptures teach that it is going to get worse as we get closer to His Return. Jesus and Paul used the illustrative word that refers to Birth pains to refer to the events that will precede Christ Return.

With that said, You would have to really be living off the grid and unaware of your surrounding and mentally incompetent, and ignorant of scripture not to realize that we are living in a greater fulfillment of the 2 Tim 3 passage than never before. Sure people have always loved themselves and been selfish. But there has never been a time in the history of the world where we have so many means of promoting selfishness. Much of what we read, hear and see has one goal in mind and that is that you have you wants met. **The Consumerism of our Society has bread a culture of selfish brats.**

An Example of this is what I read in an Article in Psychology Today

Another June 2013 study from the University of Michigan found that social media reflects and amplifies our culture's growing levels of narcissism. According to lead author Elliot Panek, "the study shows that narcissistic college students and their adult counterparts use social media in different ways to boost their egos and control others' perceptions of them. "It's important to analyze how often social media users actually post updates on sites, along with how much time they spend reading the posts and comments of others," he said.

"Among young adult college students, we found that those who scored higher in certain types of narcissism posted more often on Twitter," said Panek. "But among middle-aged adults from the general population, narcissists posted more frequent status updates on Facebook." According to Panek, Facebook

serves narcissistic adults as a mirror. As a middle-aged adult, I think these findings of the difference between Facebook and Twitter may be influenced by a generational technology gap.

Panek says of Facebook, "It's about curating your own image, how you are seen, and also checking on how others respond to this image. Middle-aged adults usually have already formed their social selves, and they use social media to gain approval from those who are already in their social circles." For narcissistic college students, the social media tool of choice is the megaphone of Twitter according to Panek.

"Young people may overevaluate the importance of their own opinions," Panek said. "Through Twitter, they're trying to broaden their social circles and broadcast their views about a wide range of topics and issues."

For the study, participants answered questions about the extent of their social media use, and also took a personality assessment measuring different aspects of narcissism, including exhibitionism, exploitativeness, superiority, authority and self-sufficiency. The researchers were unable to determine whether narcissism leads to increased use of social media, or whether social media use promotes narcissism, or whether some other factors explain the relationship.

Psychology today

Also to think that as long as you go to church and read your Bible, you will be exempt from all of this is naive.... The sad reality of it is that this Sinful distorted Self Love has not slipped into the church. WE HAVE CARTED IT IN BY THE TRUCK

LOADS. . Not only do we come in with our minds and hearts saturated with this. We even change the churches philosophy of ministry to perpetuate it.

It is no longer what God Wants or what His Word says, It is what do you want. What will make you feel better, In what ways can we make you comfortable.

Hey, If HIP HOP music is what you want, we will give it to you
If a shorter more practical less convicting sermon is what you want

then we will give it to you.

You want to come in flip flops and pajamas come on.

In fact we would rather you take more time getting dressed for you job or a family outing than church.

We want it to be so simple, easy and casual that you will hardly even know you came.

We have even gone out into the lost community of Atheist and Agnostics and religious complacence and ask them what would you like in a church.

And we wonder why, we have so many problems. We wonder why there is so many conflicts in church, marriage, work and family life.

We are so saturated with self that we are unable to respond in a Loving selfless Biblical manner to anyone or anything.

You have to work hard at not being affected by all of this. Our natural Bent in sin is to Love our selves to the exclusion of others or God

One of the very clear symptoms of Self Centered Love is the Sin of complaining

Many of us are very good at this. In fact it comes so natural that we often dont even know we are doing it.

I see it everywhere. You see it all over. You are part of it. Let me give you some things that people complain about. Now you have to think about this and think about how frivolous they are and see if you identify. Here are typical things that cause people to have increased blood pressure, that make them angry, hostile. Even in some times make them violent. Things like, for example,

traffic jams bring incredible hostility, anger, complaint. Slow drivers in front of you can be enough to cause you to lose your sanctification. Freeway cutters who cut in front of you, talkative people irritate you, long lines, short lines, any lines, having one person in front of you makes you complain. You want it your way and now. Crying babies, if you don't think there is a terrible frightening brooding discontent over crying babies, then ask yourself why there is such an increase of frightening child abuse...precipitated by crying babies...once held to the breast of a mother, now hit with an iron or a frying pan, or who knows what. Phone calls at inappropriate times, misplaced keys, would you believe, great trauma caused by that, non-house broken puppies, I mean we really get distressed by the biggies, don't we? But you see, it's a mood, stuck zippers...especially if you're already in the car half way there. Cold food, we not only want it we want it the temperature we want it. Somebody interrupting your conversation, noisy neighbors, being rushed by your husband, late airplanes, tight clothes, unsuccessful diets, peeling onions, squeaking doors, incompetent people around you, flat tires when you're in a hurry. Doing the dishes, your mother-in-law, weeds, high prices, these are the things that...imagine it...these are the things that generate hostility in people, cause tremendous conflict in marriage. We complain about all these things. How ridiculous.

Now, if you're in Hiroshima and it's 1945, you have a problem worthy of considerable concern. But just because you lost out on a promotion or a business deal, just because your child announced last week that she hates her room, just because the bank notified you this morning that you're overdrawn, I'm sure you can find a way to survive, calm down, review the situation, think it through. I hear all about mid-life crisis, do you know that there are nations in the world that don't ever have mid-life crisis because they don't live that long? Some people aren't bothered by such things at all, there are parts of the world where the average life span is 37 years and men and women are spared the distressing reality of a fortieth birthday. Some people complain about grocery bills. More than ten thousand people die of starvation every day and you're complaining about grocery bills? Millions more suffer from malnutrition. Some people say they complain about the high cost of rent...well maybe you'd rather be a pavement dweller in Calcutta, they don't pay rent. They're born, live and die on the pavement. The only thing they have to worry about is to find a rag they can put under their head when they go to sleep.

You see, while these kind of horrors go on around the world in sort of normal accepted pace, we throw tantrums because we got seated at a poorly located table in a fancy restaurant. Or we're frustrated because we can't lose ten pounds. Or we gripe about our monthly debts. You've got problems relative to what? But you see, it's the mood of the mob to complain. And then the idealistic fantasy oriented consumptive culture feeds the sin of discontent. How can we be discontent? Remember

Lamentations 3:39, "Why should any mortal being or anyone offer complaint in view of his sins?" What do we have to complain about?

Review

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Now note as I pointed out last time that this matter of doing all things without grumbling or disputing has reference to God, not so much grumbling disputing among others, that too is a sin, but the idea here is to accept that providential plan which God has ordained for your life, live out your salvation without any complaints directed at Him...a joyful heart, a thankful heart, no emotional grumbling, that's the grumbling word, and no intellectual disputing or arguing with God. But rather without complaint, gratefully we live out our salvation.

Here are the 3 Reasons Why We shouldn't complaining

- 1. Because of Sanctification**
- 2. Because of Evangelization**
- 3. Because of Confirmation**

I. Because of Sanctification

⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless,

That —— hina clause of purpose or result.

We are not to complain for the purpose that we become blameless and harmless. In other words there is a reason for not complaining

Become

Original Word: γίνομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: ginomai

Phonetic Spelling: (ghin'-om-ahee)

Short Definition: I come into being, am born

Definition: I come into being, am born, become, come about, happen.

1096 *gínomai* – properly, to *emerge, become, transitioning* from one point (realm, condition) to another. **1096** (*gínomai*) fundamentally means "*become*" (becoming, became) so it is *not* an exact equivalent to the ordinary equative verb "to be" (*is, was, will be*) as with **1510** /*eimí* (**1511** /*eínai*, **2258** /*ēn*). Beasue of ouf toooipoi

Blameless

amemptos: blameless

Original Word: ἄμεμπτος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: amemptos

Phonetic Spelling: (am'-emp-tos)

Short Definition: blameless

Definition: blameless, free from fault or defect.

273 *ámemptos* (an adjective, derived from **1** /A "not" and **3201** / *mémphomai*, "to find blame") – properly, without fault; *not blameworthy*, by omission or commission; hence, above reproach because morally pure. (This term stands in contrast to **299** /*ámōmos*, "*ritual purity*.")

1 Cor 1:7

**eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be
 blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Eph 5:27

**²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious
 church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
 but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

1 Thess 5:23

**²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you
 completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be
 preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**

2 Peter 3:14

**¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be
 diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and
 blameless;**

Harmless

akeraios: unmixed, pure

Original Word: ἀκέραιος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: akeraios

Phonetic Spelling: (ak-er'-ah-yos)

Short Definition: simple, unsophisticated, innocent

Definition: (lit: unmixed) simple, unsophisticated, sincere, blameless.

HELPS Word-studies

185 akéraios (an adjective, derived from **1** /A "not" and **2767** /keránnymi, "mingled") – properly, not mixed (mingled); *not a destructive mixture* because not tainted by sinful motives (ambitions); pure (unmingled).

matt 10:16

16 “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Romans 16:19

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and “simple” concerning evil.

Heb 7:26

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

That's God's desire for His people that their character and their conduct should be so pure that they cannot justly be accused, that they are above criticism that is legitimate, there is no foreign element which contaminates their life. We are to be, in the terms of 2 Corinthians 11, a chaste virgin, a pure virgin, in terms of Ephesians 5, the church is to be a blameless without spot, without blemish bride. Same concept.

II. Because of Evangelization

without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

without fault amomos: blameless

Original Word: ἄμωμος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: amomos

Phonetic Spelling: (am'-o-mos)

Short Definition: blameless

Definition: blameless, without blemish, unblemished, faultless.

HELPS Word-studies

299 *ámōmos* (an adjective, derived from **1** /A "not" and **3470** /*mōmos*, "blemish") – properly, unblemished, without spot or blot (blight); (figuratively) morally, spiritually blameless, *unblemished* from the marring effects of sin.

In the Midst

mesos: middle, in the midst

Original Word: μέσος, η, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: mesos

Phonetic Spelling: (mes'-os)

Short Definition: middle, in the middle

Definition: middle, in the middle, between, in the midst of.

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

a prim. word

Definition

middle, in the midst

crooked

skolios: curved, winding, hence crooked

Original Word: σκολιός, ά, όν

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: skolios

Phonetic Spelling: (skol-ee-os')

Short Definition: crooked, perverse, unfair

Definition: crooked, perverse, unfair, curved, tortuous.

HELPS Word-studies

4646 *skoliós* (an adjective, derived from a primitive root, *NAS* dictionary) – properly, crooked (bent) because *dried out* (like a piece of *parched* wood); (figuratively) morally *twisted* (warped) because lacking the oil of the Holy Spirit – hence, *unacceptable* to God (His standards); "perverse, unjust" (*Abbott-Smith*).

Perverse

diastrephó: to distort, fig. misinterpret, corrupt

Original Word: διαστρέφω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: diastrephó

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-as-tref'-o)

Short Definition: I pervert, corrupt, oppose

Definition: I pervert, corrupt, oppose, distort.

HELPS Word-studies

1294 *diastrephō* (from **1223** /*diá*, "through, thoroughly," which intensifies **4762** /*stréphō*, "turn") – properly, turned through (thoroughly), into a new shape which however is "*distorted, twisted; perverted*" (*Abbott-Smith*) – i.e. "opposite" from the shape (form) it *should* be. "Note the intensifying force of the prefix, *dia* meaning, "distorted, twisted in two, corrupt" (*WP*, 1, 142).

you shine

phainó: to bring to light, to cause to appear

Original Word: φαίνω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: phainó

Phonetic Spelling: (fah'-ee-no)

Short Definition: I shine, appear, seem

Definition: (a) act: I shine, shed light, (b) pass: I shine, become visible, appear, (c) I become clear, appear, seem, show myself as.

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from a prim. root

Definition

to bring to light, to cause to appear

lights

phóstér: a luminary, light

Original Word: φωστήρ, ἦρος, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: phóstér

Phonetic Spelling: (foce-tare')

Short Definition: a light, brilliancy

Definition: a light, an illuminator, perhaps the sun; a star; brilliancy.

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from phós

Definition

a luminary, light

You shine, and here's his analogy, as lights, phoster, that word in a metaphorical sense can refer to a lot of different lights. But whenever it's used in a specific non-metaphorical sense it always refers to the sun, moon or stars. And I take it here that that is probably what Paul is saying. We find, for example, such a use of this term in the Septuagint in **Genesis 1:14** and **Genesis 1:16**, we find some non-biblical sources where this word is used to refer to **the sun, moon and the stars.** And what he is simply saying is you live in a dark universe and you are the stars and the sun and the moon, you're the only light the world has. As the sun and the moon and the stars shine in the heavens and as they illuminate an otherwise dark sky, so you shine in the world otherwise...illuminating an otherwise totally dark society. We shine.

Romans 2:19 (NASB95)

19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NASB95)

6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Ephesians 5:8 (NASB95)

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

Matt 5:14

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

F.B. Meyer wrote, "These thoughts press on one's heart that one can never speak a word, never transact a piece of business that one's face is never seen lighted up with the radiance of God or clouded and despondent without it being made harder or easier for other men to live a good life. Everyone of us every day resembles Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made other men sin, or we are lifting other men into the light and the peace and the joy of God. No man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself but the life of everyone is telling upon an increasing number of mankind what a solemn responsibility it is to live."

philosopher Heine in Germany said, "Show me your redeemed lives and I might be inclined to believe in your Redeemer."

Holding forth the Word of Life

epechó: to hold fast, to hold toward, to stop

Original Word: ἑπέχω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: epechó

Phonetic Spelling: (ep-ekh'-o)

Short Definition: I hold forth, pay attention, note, delay

Definition: (a) trans: I hold forth, (b) intrans: I mark, pay attention (heed), note; I delay, stay, wait.

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from *epi* and *echó*

Definition

to hold fast, to hold toward, to stop

NASB Translation

give...attention (1), holding fast (1), noticed (1), pay close attention (1), stayed (1).

Matt 10:27

²⁷ “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

Luke 12:8

⁸ “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

⁹ But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Romans 10:13

¹³ For “*whoever calls* on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Israel Rejects the Gospel

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

III. Because of Confirmation

so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Labored

kopiaó: to grow weary, toil

Original Word: ΚΟΤΙΪΆΩ

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: kopiaó

Phonetic Spelling: (kop-ee-ah'-o)

Short Definition: I grow weary, toil

Definition: (a) I grow weary, (b) I toil, work with effort (of bodily and mental labor alike).

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 2872 *kopiáō* (from 2873 /*kópos*, "exhausting labor") – **to labor until worn-out, depleted (exhausted)**. See 2873 (*kopos*).

I Thess 2:19

¹⁹ For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

I Thess 3:5

For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

Gal 1:6

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Call to Apostleship

¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Gal 4:11

¹¹ I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Isa 49:4

**Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain;
Yet surely my just reward *is* with the Lord,
And my work with my God.’ ”**