

“Complaining”

1 Cor. 10:1-11

Introduction

- I. How many of us want to be around someone who complains all the time?
- II. Perhaps others avoid us because we are guilty of being the complainer.
- III. Christians, above all others, have reasons to rejoice, not to complain (Phil. 4:4).
- IV. Let us use Israel of old to see how complaining does not help, but rather hinders.

Discussion

- I. Israel complained when things did not go as they thought they should (Exo. 15:22-26).
 - A. On this occasion, the complaint was about the water tasting bitterly.
 - B. The Israelites showed a lack of trust in God's providential care (Psm. 106:23-25).
 - C. Too often, we are like Israel, in that we complain when things do not go as we think they should.
 1. God provides for our bodies (Matt. 6:24-34).
 2. God provides for our souls (1 Cor. 10:13).
- II. Israel complained when they thought about the past (Exo. 16:1-8).
 - A. This time, Israel began to imagine that things were better under bondage than free from Egypt.
 - B. The Israelites were not thinking of the progress that they had made.
 - C. Sometimes we can allow thoughts of our pasts to deceive us into believing that we were better then as opposed to now (Luke 9:62; 1 Cor. 6:11-13).
- III. Israel complained when they did not get their way (Num. 12:1-9).
 - A. Keep in mind, they were not without food, but they were not getting the food that they wanted.
 - B. The Israelites had grown unappreciative of God's blessing (Num. 21:4-7).
 - C. We can be guilty of complaining when we think that the Lord has not blessed us the way that we think He should (Matt. 20:1-16).

Conclusion

- I. The complaints of Israel serve as a great lesson for us to be content and appreciative for the blessings of God (Phil. 4:11).
- II. If we find ourselves complaining, let us reflect on God's Word and remember that God is good (Matt. 19:17).