

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

Grumbling And Murmuring

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should grumbling and murmuring be avoided?)

1. Grumbling and murmuring are often directed toward those who serve the Lord in ministry because people do not accept their authority or mission. (i.e. Moses, Ex. 15:24; 17:23; Num. 12:1; 14:36; Aaron, Num. 16:11; Moses and Aaron, Ex. 16:2-8; Num. 14:2; Joshua, Josh. 9:18; maybe even Paul, 1 Cor. 10:1-12).
2. Most grumbling and murmuring, though not directed at the Lord, may be viewed by the Lord as directed toward Him, (Ex. 16:7,9; Num. 14:27; Num. 17:5).
3. Grumbling and murmuring displeases the Lord, (Num. 11:1).
4. Some of the contributing factors to grumbling and murmuring are: rebellion and fear, (Num. 14:9;) and disbelief of God's work and rejection of God's Word, (Num. 14:22).
5. In some cases, continued grumbling and murmuring has brought about judgment from the Lord, 1 Cor. 10:10 (cf. Num. 11:1; 14:27-37; 17:1-5).

Practical Prescriptions (How can I control grumbling and murmuring?)

1. Serve the Lord and others with a true servant's heart!

A. "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling," (1 Pt. 4:9).

B. "Do all things without murmuring and disputing," (Phil. 2:14).

(See the account of the call of Matthew in Lk. 5:27-32; and also of the anointing at Bethany in Mk. 14:3-9.)

2. Settle differences or misunderstandings with others properly!

A. "When Jesus knew in himself that His disciples murmured about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?" (John 6:61)

B. "...When the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring against the Hebrews... because the widows were neglected..." (Acts 6:1).

3. Stop living your life according to selfish lusts!

"These are murmurers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts," (Jude 16).

(See the parable of the workers of the vineyard, Mt. 20:1-16; and also of the anointing at Bethany in Mk. 14:3-9.)

4. Spare God's servants and leaders from unneeded criticism!

"... He hears your murmurings against the Lord, but what are we, that you murmur against us?" (Ex. 16:7).

5. Survey your life and reflect on what the Lord has done for you!

Compare divine help from God, (Ex. 14:) with three days later, (Ex. 15:22-24);

Compare 10 divine miracles, (Num. 14:11,22) with their reliance, (Num. 14:27).

Compare wanting Egypt, (Ex. 16:1-3) with wanting out of Egypt, (Ex. 3:9-10).