

March 18, 2018

**SPOILED FRUIT**  
**1Corinthians 10**

From the Meditation this morning, you know that we'll be talking about the fact that complaining, grumbling & criticizing are symptoms of distrust & faithlessness; for ***“without faith, it is impossible to please God for he who comes to God must believe that He is God, & He is the rewarder of those who seek Him”*** (Heb 11:6)

There are 2 main ideas presented in this chapter that are linked with faith-filled obedience: 1) Don't complain or grumble against God, & 2) Don't worship idols. Paul has already addressed the issue of adapting our behavior to prevent weaker Christians from stumbling. The only thing he adds in the latter section of this chapter is that idols are not gods, but demons. Since there is only One True, Living God – any other “god” is merely an anti-god, a demon! *So, we'll spend our time on complaining, grumbling & criticizing!*

It is important that we get a grip on the reality of what complaining is because we're all guilty of doing this from time to time – *even in our relationship with God!* We may not mean to distrust God – ***to treat Him as if He was unworthy of our trust*** – but that's exactly what complaining does! If complaining characterizes your life in relationship with Jesus – if you're constantly/continually finding reason to grumble @ the quality of your life, the troubles you face, or the “plight” of your life, then it's time you questioned your salvation for 2 reasons:

- 1) Salvation is a relationship earmarked by PEACE!
- 2) Complaining denies Christ's Lordship!

Today, Paul reminds the Christians in Corinth (*and us*) that, though God saved all the Jews from slavery in Egypt, He did not save them in the wilderness b/c of their chronic complaining

**READ: 1Cor 10:1-13 (NLT)**

**1-5)** The Israelites followed Moses in the way of salvation; but most were killed (not saved) along the journey  
-**Why?** Because complaining is disobedient distrust

**1,2)** All were “baptized” into Moses in cloud & sea  
-immersed into Moses' exodus; identified as followers  
-*the Red sea = water (physical) baptism does not save!*

**3)** All ate “spiritual” food = **manna** – provided by God

**4)** All drank “**Rock** water” – manifestation of Christ in OT

**5)** Yet God was not pleased with most and killed them

***Why was God not pleased? Complaining = “un”faithful***

**6-10)** Paul alludes to 4 wilderness judgments of God for evil:

**7)** Ex 32:1-6 – Aaron & the golden calf! (*Ex 20: told No*)

**8)** Num 25:1-9 = Israel men w/ Moabite women – *No!*

**9)** Num 21:4-9 – Snake bites for hating God's provision

**10)** Nub 16:41-50 = criticized Moses & God

**11-13)** OT was written down to benefit us *in the end of the ages*

Do not make the same mistake as the Israelites did assuming:

-God would tolerate their continuing distrust/complaints

-God was obligated to deliver them into the P. Land

-God wouldn't judge their disobedience & insolence

***\*\*Even today, there are some who think all will be saved***

No person is owed salvation! It is God's prerogative & our privilege! And real salvation changes a person from inside out to become a new creature by God's power; from sinner to saint, following God in trust & obedience: *not perfectly, but progressively!* The NT in Christ's blood means, ***“Once saved, always saved!”*** But before Christ accomplished this caliber of salvation thru the cross, *it was not so!* Paul's warning to us NT believers is to press on faithfully thru life not b/c we can loose our salvation, but so that we can prove it!

Therefore, when you are tempted to complain about your circumstances, or grumble about your resources, or criticize others for making your life miserable...**STOP!** The temptation you face is no different than the temptations faced by every generation since time began, and ***“God is faithful; He will be the strength you need to get thru the temptation and to see His planned escape!”*** But you & I must listen/submit to Him who is worthy of trusting, worthy of expecting, & worthy of following. **We are not meant to be spoiled fruit...but His glorious fruit!**

**INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:**

- 1) Does PEACE characterize your life – even in bad situations?
- 2) Is your trust, dependence & reliance on Christ growing?
- 3) Do you need to reconsider the basis of your salvation?

**WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Numbers 21:4-9 (NLT)**

**4) Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient with the long journey, 5) and they began to speak against God and Moses. “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they complained. “There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!” 6) So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. 7) Then the people came to Moses and cried out, “We have sinned by complaining against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take away the snakes**

Can we agree that complaining, criticizing & grumbling are just NOT godly characteristics? *Or did you think they were inadvertently omitted from the list of the Spirit’s fruit? (love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, & self control).* Complaining and criticizing are the blatant, shameless evidence of distrust & disrespect. *Is there any parent here who enjoys their child’s complaint or grumbling when asked to do a simple task like empty the garbage, brush your teeth or get ready for bed?!*

If you really try, you can only imagine how it is for a perfect Father to hear that from His imperfect, misguided and self-indulged children! Complaining, grumbling and criticizing are born out of self-righteousness, entitlement and ingratitude. They are exactly the opposite of trusting & obeying, & derail our greatest human achievement: ***relying totally on God for direction, decisions & results!***

Sermon in a Sentence: **Spoiled Fruit**

**So, why does Paul say these experiences of Israel are to warn us in the last days? I think to force his audience (and ours) to examine and re-examine their own salvation experience! Are we true believers with changed hearts that live changed lives by the power of the indwelling Spirit...or not?**

Obviously, these Israelites believed God to lead them out, but not along the journey, or to lead them in to the Promise Land, or to keep them from dying of thirst or hunger, or...

I’m fairly certain that this is the reason Paul encourages us to ensure our salvation by pressing on faithfully through every experience until death’s doorway! Not because we can lose our salvation (like the Israelites did - not really a great way to say that) - but so that we can prove it!

Paul’s warning to us NT believers is to press on faithfully through every experience not b/c we can lose our salvation, but to prove it!