

When Complaints Cloud Your Vision

Phil 2:14-15

Webster defines grumbling as "expressing dissatisfaction or annoyance, often under one's breath." The Greek word Paul uses in this verse is *gongysmos*, which carries the idea of a "secret displeasure not openly expressed".

Let's be honest—we all struggle with this from time to time, myself as well. Just a few days ago, I caught myself harboring that kind of "secret displeasure" when I had to follow through on a promise to run an errand for a family member. After about an hour of quiet frustration, my wife finally said, "Remember—you volunteered to do this." She was right. The only problem was that I made that commitment two weeks earlier, when I wasn't as busy and was in a much better mood. Have you ever been there?

Paul is making a direct connection to the Israelites wandering in the desert. His description of a "crooked and twisted generation" echoes **Deuteronomy 32:5**, where the same charge is made against them. In essence, Paul is saying: learn from their mistakes so you don't repeat them. It's a message that still applies to us today.

Scripture tells us to "do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure." Not sinless—but blameless. That is, above reproach. The kind of person others—even those outside the church—cannot easily criticize. And "pure" doesn't mean perfect; it means your heart is clearly in the right place.

We need to guard against a grumbling spirit because it can quietly undermine the work God is doing. When someone who is spiritually immature hears complaints about serving the Lord or His church, that attitude can spread quickly and do real damage.

Paul says that when we live this way, we will "shine like stars." That image reminds me of my Jeep Wrangler. It's such a cool vehicle, but there are quirks—like an upright windshield that seems to attract every bug on the road. After just one evening drive, the glass can be so covered that visibility becomes a real issue, even with the headlights on.

Grumbling works the same way. One or two small complaints may not seem like much, but over time, they build up. Before long, they cloud your perspective and make it harder to see clearly what God is doing around you.

There are seasons in our lives when God is doing something powerful that has the potential to truly change us. The enemy cannot stop God's work, so instead, he works to distort our perception. He plants seeds of discontentment, aiming to drain our joy, weaken our involvement, and cloud our perspective on what God is doing.

So maybe today your "spiritual windshield" needs cleaning. Perhaps there are areas where you need to repent and ask God to renew your perspective—to help you see clearly again. When the clutter of grumbling is cleared away, you may find that God has been at work all along, and now you can finally see it.

God of grace, thank you for the gift of being a part of your work on this Earth. Help me to see where you are at work with a clear perspective and a pure heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jonathan Prater – CBC Ex. Board

Weekly Prayer Point

Please pray for:

- God to bless all the CBC Youth Camps this summer and for the time, effort, resources, and prayers poured into them to yield much good fruit in the lives of all children and adults that participate.
- Those campers who haven't been saved to meet Jesus
- Those campers who have met Jesus to grow in their relationship with Him.
- God to call the campers into His service, and that they will respond and say yes.

Please pray for these congregations and pastors:

- Retornó de Cristo Mateo 5:9 in Venezuela and Pastor Luis Humberto Velasco
- Ridge in Shippensburg, PA and Pastor Leon Davis
- Rocky Mount in Rocky Mount, VA and Pastor John W. Collins
- Rubavu in Rwanda Africa

CBC Prayer Committee