

Times of Services

Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 11:00 a. m. Worship

Wednesday

- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- **2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service**
- **2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study—at Ranch House Restaurant, Columbus, MS**
- **3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – (TBA)**
- **Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)**
- **Monthly Ladies Class- TBA**

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harless, Joyce Manasco.
- **Limited Health:** Wade McCrary.
- **Prayer Requests:** Frank and Joann Butler.
- **Others to Remember:** Steve Coburn, Jim Ratcliff, David Allen Williams, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Doug Wheeler, Mike & Marion Butler, Lee Gallop. Willena Woods is undergoing therapy at Windsor Place Room 205. Julie Reese Vibrock, daughter of Brooke and Randy Vibrock, was able to come home (call before visits please).
- **Sick.** Lynette Coburn had a knee surgery on January 31.
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- **Contact Information:**
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East Columbus Bulletin

Complaining Christians

Do all things without complaining and disputing, 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 (Philippians 2:14-15).

Few things can be more destructive to a child's future (both earthly and heavenly) as a propensity to whine and complain. Such is the manner of those who are ungrateful, greedy and self-seeking. Continued grumbling and griping is evidence that a child has successfully trained his parents to cater to his wantonness, placing in jeopardy not only the child, but also the parents (Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4). If the routine is not broken (Proverbs 2:15; 23:13-14), the murmuring child will become a murmuring adult, and an irritation to his peers.

Recall that when God brought the children of Israel from Egypt, they were a nation of complainers (Exodus 15:24; 16:2; 17:3). The apostle Paul candidly states, "...with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness" (1 Corinthians 10:5). He cites the things which happened to them as "...our example, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted" (verse 6). Friend, you and I are not to "...complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer" (verse 10).

A Christian complaining is no more acceptable than any child or the nation of Israel doing so. If the Lord commands that we "drive

it far" from the child, and if He scattered the Israelite bodies in the wilderness on account of their murmuring, then surely we can understand that such has no place in the child of God. The context of Philippians 2 supplies Jesus as our great example, through His obedience in going to the cross. Recall the prophet wrote of Him, "...as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). If he endured such hostility and pain for us, without complaint, ought we not endeavour to serve Him daily without complaint?

Understand, my friend, our standing as children of God depends upon us laying aside all murmuring. If we are to shine as lights in this world, it will be through faithful obedience, and the knowledge that we are to be "blameless and harmless", not whiners and complainers.

William Stewart, *The Beacon [Electronic Edition]*, 10-20-09

A Few More Things

Because of lack of space in this article, we can only discuss a few things. While it is impossible to condense the teaching of Jesus into few words, I have selected a "few things" that would be good for you to dwell on this week.

First, Jesus said few are saved (Matthew 7:13-14). Although it is God's desire that all men are saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9), one nurtures a false sense of security when they believe that many people in the world will be saved. In the days of Noah, only eight people in the world were saved and in the days of the wilderness wandering, only Joshua and Caleb entered Canaan out of two million. Only those who do the Father's will by hearing and obeying Jesus will be saved (Matthew 7:21-27; Hebrews 5:9). All who want to go to Heaven must strive to be there (Luke 13:23-24). "Strive" means "to contend or struggle with difficulties and dangers; to endeavor with strenuous zeal." We strive against unbelief (Acts 26:27-28), against ourselves (Acts 26:9), and against

sin (Luke 19:8-10). Whether you believe it or not, your personal choice is being made right now.

Second, Jesus said there are few laborers (Matthew 9:37). Who will truly care for the spiritual welfare of others (Philippians 2:19-22)? Who will serve instead of being served (3 John 9-10)? Who will preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-28)? All of these are necessary to labor in the fields for God. It is often preached that we cannot be complacent and lethargic but zealous for souls righteous towards God (Romans 12:11). The simple reason is that there are just not enough workers for any of us to be self-satisfied.

Third, Jesus said to be faithful over a few things (Matthew 25:21-13). The Lord has placed something into all our hands to be used in His service (Matthew 25:14-19, 21, 23, 25-30). When all are combined in a local congregation, we have speaking skills, labor skills, teaching skills, etc. We have many diverse talents in the body, but we all harness those talents to accomplish a greater good (1 Corinthians 12:12). Use your talent(s) to serve (Luke 16:10).

Would Jesus have a few things against us (Revelation 2:14, 20)? Are we among the few who have not defiled themselves (Revelation 3:4)? Jesus knows our names. After considering "a few things," where will you spend eternity?

Kyle Campbell, *The Gospel Teacher (Lufkin, TX)*, 9-13-15

Eph 4:4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

1Corinthians 1:10 *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*