



# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## THE SIN OF MURMURING

The word “murmur” is defined as “low, muttered complaints; grumbling” (Webster). It is condemned by God as being sinful. We are commended to “*do all things without murmuring and disputings*” (Phil. 2:16). The apostle Paul warned Christians against this sin in his letter to the Corinthians: “*Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured and were destroyed of the destroyer*” (1 Cor. 10:10). The sinfulness of murmuring is vividly illustrated by God’s severity of punishment toward the guilty Jews, as shown in the following account.

Korah, Dathan, Ahiram, fifty princes of the congregation and others rebelled and murmured against God’s servants Moses and Aaron (Num. 16:1-11). “*The earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up they, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them, and they perished from among the congregation*” (verses 32-

33). “*And there came out a fire from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense*” (verse 35). When the Jews murmured that Moses and Aaron were responsible for the deaths. God killed fourteen thousand, seven hundred of them by a plague (verses 41-49). This is written for our admonition and should cause all murmurers in the church to repent and reform, lest they suffer a “*sorer punishment*” (Heb. 10:28-29).

A murmurer can do great harm and irreparable damage in a congregation by creating discontent, discouragement, and apathy among members, by sowing discord among the brethren (which God hates – Prov. 6:19), by undermining the work of the preacher, teachers, deacons, and the rule of elders. This many times creates a general attitude of dissatisfaction and loss of interest, enthusiasm, and zeal, resulting in decreased attendance, contribution, and impairment of all work in

general. The murmurer may then be the first to criticize the lack of growth and may use the preacher or someone else as the scapegoat to bear the blame, not realizing or ignoring the fact that his own sin is responsible.

The murmurer does not truly love God and is not really interested in the welfare and growth of the church, but in his own selfish desires and opinions. He is either woefully ignorant of or willfully disregards God's word regarding his sin, and is a dangerous threat to the cause of Christ. He can and does destroy or greatly lessen the influence and work of those who happen to be the object of his disgruntled attack. It is difficult to deal with such a situation because often times the murmurer does not have the courage or character to honorably discuss his complaints with the proper ones, but whispers them in secret to others. Christians should not lend receptive ears nor endorsement to murmuring, but exhort the guilty one to cease his sin. Remember, if one will murmur to you, he may murmur about you, because many times he is a pharisaical faultfinder, a chronic complainer with a hypercritical attitude who is usually never satisfied very long with any arrangement.

We earnestly exhort all murmurers everywhere in the name of Christ to repent of this sin, to cease and desist in tearing down the work of God, and to get busy in the kingdom to build it up. Those

who truly love God and his church have no desire to be hypercritical faultfinders, wandering about murmuring to all who will listen. If anyone should persist in this sin after proper warnings and efforts to restore, then scriptural discipline should be brought about to protect the flock of God and its work. The work of our Lord is too important to allow murmurer to run and ruin the church.

**Editor's Note:**

The above comes from a beloved brother in the Lord who preached the gospel in West Tennessee. I did not know him personally, but I have known brethren who knew bro. Fly well, and all attest to the fact that he loved the Lord and tried hard to spread God's word in his short life. He was among the first to fight against the institutional error of the 1950s and 1960s in Tennessee and stood strong for the Lord and His will until his dying day.

I am happy that I possess this article and a couple other things from brother Fly. I pray that this writing will benefit you in your spiritual growth (II Cor. 13:5). – Earl Fly

***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”***

This passage speaks to the blessings that come when we are in a relationship with Christ. “*In Christ*” there are certain things that are true. A

person outside of Christ will never enjoy the blessings of being a new creature, of salvation, or of have a relationship with Christ for example. So long as men stay away from the Lord, they are depriving themselves of the greatest blessing.

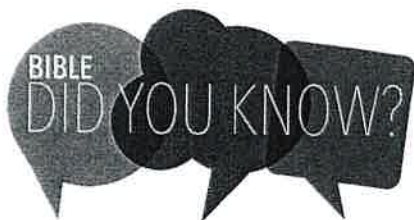
It is not stated in this chapter, but the way we can get “*in Christ*” is by being baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). When we are “*in Christ*” we are recipients of many blessings (Eph. 1:3). One of the greatest is that we can become a “*new creature*.”

“*Old things*” like living in sin (Col. 3:5), lying (Col. 3:9), cruelty, and everything else the “*old man*” was so fond of have “*passed away*”. Mr. Thayer says this means they have “*perished*”! This harmonizes with what Paul told the Romans as well. They were told the “*old man*” was crucified and that “*we should not serve sin*” (Rom. 6:6).

When we are “*in Christ*” the “*old man*” is “*passed away*” and he is to be buried. When this happens, we then put on the “*new man*” (Col. 3:10). He is a “*new creature*” with a new beginning. He is a baby (I Pet. 2:2) and will need to mature spiritually “*in Christ*” (II Pet. 3:15; Heb. 5:12-14).

Are you “*in Christ*” (Gal. 3:27)? If not, then you are still in your sins and the “*old man*” of sin rules over you. Don’t allow this to continue another day. Become a Christian today by believing on Christ,

repenting of your sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 10:10; I Pet. 3:21). You have the opportunity to start anew! Begin again as a new man! All things are new in Christ. You can have your sins washed away (Acts 22:16), and can start afresh and walk the strait and narrow path that leads to life everlasting (Matt. 7:13-14)! Take this opportunity while you can to be a “*new creature*” (II Cor. 6:2). Tomorrow may be too late!  
- Jarrod M. Jacobs

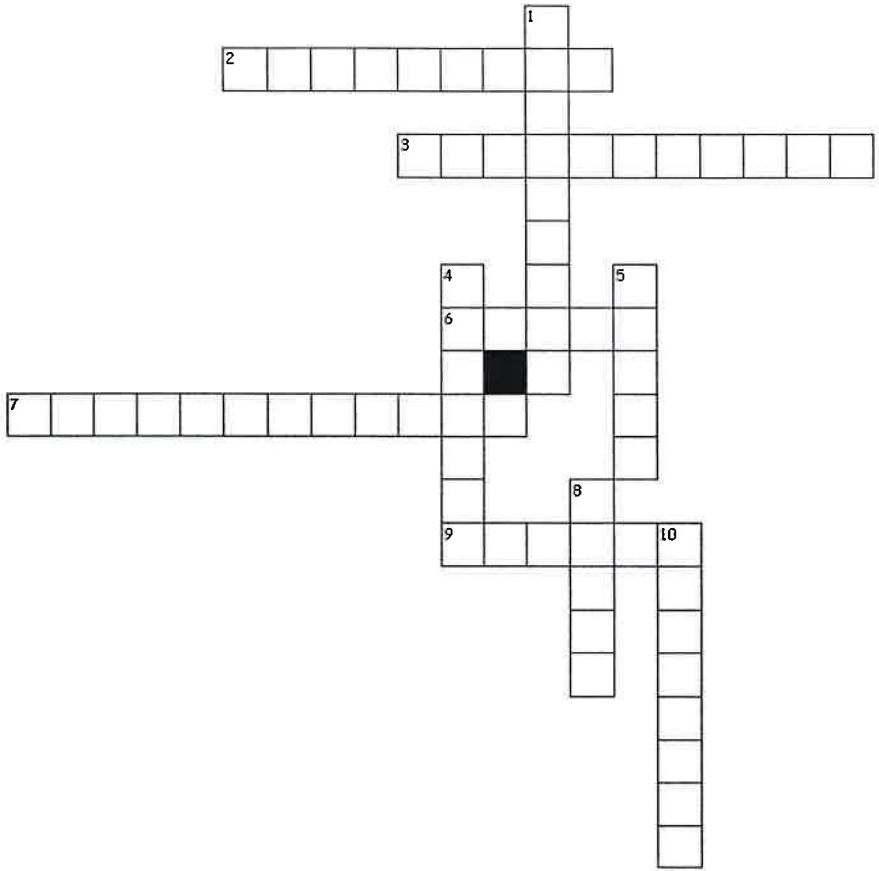


***Being children of God and lights in the world, we are different from those in sin as we are not to be complainers. “Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life.”***

***Philippians 2:14-16***

The

U L T M T E  
C R S S W O R D



### ACROSS

2. God appointed offices in church for \_\_\_\_\_ the saints. (Eph. 4:11-12)
3. Paul was given the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's grace. (Eph. 3:2)
6. Don't let the sun go down on your \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 4:26)
7. Paul was sent to preach the \_\_\_\_\_ riches of Christ. (Eph. 3:8)
9. Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise.

### DOWN

1. We can know the love of Christ which surpasses \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 3:19)
4. When hearts are \_\_\_\_\_, we are given over to sensuality. (Eph. 4:19)
5. God lavished on us the riches of His \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 1:7-8)
8. Those who hope in Christ live to the praise of His \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 1:12)
10. We are built together into a \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the Spirit. (Eph. 2:22)