

No Complaining Allowed...Be Thankful!

I read a story about a woman who actually complained to the government that the extra hour of sunlight during Daylight Savings Time was burning up her lawn. There are two things I'd like to point out from this. First, this woman evidently loved her lawn to an extreme measure, or she wouldn't have filed the complaint. Second, she was obviously confused about the facts. Although the government is responsible for Daylight Savings Time, most folks understand that moving our clocks forward or backward one hour doesn't actually change the hours of sunlight!

Perhaps you're thinking to yourself: "What a ridiculous thing to complain about." Well, I would agree. However, when you think about it, aren't many of the things we complain about ridiculous? Why do people complain? Is it not because they- like this woman – think their rights are being violated in some way? Absolutely! Like this woman, most complainers are also confused about the facts. They grumble and moan about trivial matters, and friends, the Lord is not pleased.

I've observed that many Christians (myself included) have great difficulty obeying the command found in Philippians 2:14, which says – "**Do all things without complaining and disputing.**" That's a command from God! Paul is not making a mere suggestion for Christians to consider. He doesn't say that it is acceptable to complain a little or occasionally, of which most are probably guilty. He basically says: No complaining allowed –period! "Do all things without complaining and disputing."

The root of the problem of complaining is selfishness. People who complain haven't completely died to themselves. After all, **dead men don't complain**, do they? Is it not the case that Christians are to die to self and live for Christ? Absolutely (Matt. 16:24; Gal. 2:20).

Let us conclude by reading the fuller context of Paul's thoughts in Philippians 2 – "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, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain" (Phil. 2:14-16).

Be Thankful in all things...Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Donald