

which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. All of us should have an attitude as Job did in **Job 2:9-10** 9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this, Job did not sin with his lips. God never did promise us a perfect life on this earth, but he did promise that no matter what happens in this life, he is always there to carry us through. **Romans 8:35-39** 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than

conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul had this to say in **Philippians 4:11-13** 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. So, the next time your life is turned upside down, give thanks to God because He is always there beside you and will always comfort you through the hardships of life. In all that you do, give thanks to God for His bountiful mercy.

By Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
 10:20 a.m.
 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
 Charles Kelley
 Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
 Eddie Cook
 Bill Davis
 Neil Ledbetter
 Jeff Nunn
 Fred Perez

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Do We Murmur Against God?

Have you ever noticed, when times are good, everyone will have something nice to say to one another? But the minute things in our lives start to go from very good to bad, watch how the words from our mouths change from good to bad. We have a tendency to blame others for the problems we face in everyday life. Example: We tend to blame the Federal Government for increasing our taxes. We become upset about how they use the money they collect from us, but at the same time, we enjoy the benefits that the Government provides. We blame the law makers for the stupid laws that are passed every

day, even though we voted the law makers into office because we liked what they said during the election. As husbands and wives, we often blame each other when money gets tight in our finances. Do we blame each other for other problems we have in our marriage? I dare say we do. Most of us as Christians will blame or murmur against God for our misfortunes and the problems we will face every day in our lives. As Christians, we expect God to put a protective shield around us so that our lives will be good and we will experience nothing bad. That would be nice, but it does not work that way, for

Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you to the end." We need to understand that murmuring against God is a terrible sin and we will be held accountable for every word that we speak against God when we stand before Him on the judgment day. Murmuring is nothing new when speaking of the human race. As a matter of fact, the Bible is full of examples of those who were never satisfied. When times got difficult, they would often blame God for all of their heartaches and problems. You may recall, in Exodus, how God sent Moses down to Egypt to free his people, the children of Israel. The children of Israel had been slaves for 430 years. They had been treated very badly and were forced to perform hard labor. They had their baby boys thrown into the Nile river in order to control their population. They saw the ten plagues that God called upon Egypt when Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go. Only with the death of the first born male, would Pharaoh let the Israelites go. The children of Israel saw the mighty works that God performed, yet they were never satisfied with what God had done for them. The following is a good example of how God feels about murmuring when He gives us our daily needs. **Exodus 16:6-12** *6 Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints*

against the Lord. But what are we, that you complain against us?" 8 Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord." 9 Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, for He has heard your complaints.'" 10 Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. 11 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" At this point, the children of Israel were not satisfied with what God had done for them. God had freed them from Egypt and was going to take them to the promised land. However, the road was not easy and the Israelites began to doubt God and wonder why He had brought them out of bondage, only to wander in the wilderness. Do we act in the same way when we face trials and temptations in our every day lives? Do we murmur against God when things don't go our way or when times are difficult! When we put in for that promotion and we don't get

it, do we blame God for not letting us get ahead in life or have a bigger piece of the financial pie? When we find out that our taxes have gone up and we did not get that refund as we should have, who do we blame? Is this God's fault? I don't think so. When we don't get our way in life, do we ever stop and think that just maybe God knows what is best for us? Maybe God is sparing us from a lot of heartache and trouble by not letting us get everything that we ask for. How many times have we been singled out for doing what was right only to be punished by the world or our own family because we serve God according to the Bible? How many times do we feel that God is punishing us because we are not as perfect as we think we should be, or when we don't reach that social or economic level that we think we should. When we go to church, we teach, we're involved in the Lord's work, always ready to be of some help, and then it happens. The bottom falls out from under us. It seems that every one step we take, we go back five steps. When this happens to us, who do we blame? God is often blamed for our heartaches and troubles for all that we do. We often say to ourselves that it is futile to serve God that our efforts don't matter. **Malachi 3:13-14** *13 "Your words have been harsh against Me," says the Lord, "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' 14 You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance,*

*and that we have walked as mourners before the Lord of Hosts?'" Murmuring is a sin before God; it is an act of rebellion and shows a lack of faith in God. In other words, we are pointing our self righteous finger at God. When we murmur against God, what we are really saying is, "I have very little faith, God, that you will follow through with the promises that you made to me when You said you would take care of me." **James 1:2-8** *2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. We all know that our lives are not going to be a bed of roses. There will be thorns in our lives, but that does not mean God does not care or does not love us. A lot of the trouble we get into, we bring on ourselves due to too much talking and not enough listening. We want too much and put the world ahead of God. **James 1:12-15** *12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life***