

We all, perhaps, are guilty of too much complaining, but if all of us complained and found fault as much as some do, the church would fall apart. Examine yourself! Are you one who criticizes too much and too often for your own good and for the good of the church? “Judge not, that ye be not judged.”

—From grandoldbook.com

Prayer List

Our prayers are with the Copeland family in the loss of Keith who passed away last week.

Sarah Howard	Herman McKenzie	Faye Seiler
Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	James Howard
David Depew	Sara Nance	

Gospel Meetings

6/21-26 at Midway in Florence with Bill Hall

6/22-26 VBS at Jordan Park, M-F at 10 a.m.

7/5-10 at Parkway with Paddy Kendall-Ball, M-F at 7:00 p.m.

7/6-10 VBS at New Georgia with Greg Chandler, M-F at 10 a.m.

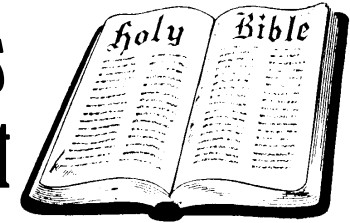
7/12-17 at Jones Road with Lowell Sallee

7/18 Young People's Lectureship at Hughes Road in Madison with Jeff May, Edwin Crozier and Eric Reynolds

7/19-24 at Highway 157 in Cullman with Jeff May, Lessons on the Home and Family, M-F at 7 p.m.

7/26-31 at Woolly Springs

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



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Sauntering Vaguely

Did you know that last Friday, June 19th, was World Sauntering Day?

Sauntering is a form of movement akin to walking, but it is not a walk, jog, trot, or run. Sauntering is a form of strolling. Sauntering is a very casual, yet stylish, form of movement from point A to Point B. The dictionary defines sauntering as walking along slowly, happily and aimlessly. Now, doesn't this sound like a grand way to get around?

This undeniably vague manner of travel may be appealing if there is nowhere to go, but as Christians, we have a destination. We don't wander aimlessly; we run a race with a clear finish in sight.

The Hebrew writer records, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Some never obey the gospel of Christ because they fail to see the need to run the race. Those who never start running can never cross the finish line.

Paul said of himself, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid

up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Those who finish the race as Paul did are rewarded a crown of life by the righteous Judge. We can't see the finish line, the coming Day, but we run nonetheless by faith.

Are you sauntering vaguely through life or are you running the race to win the crown? If you will make heaven your destination and run with endurance, you can win the crown.
—RAB

CONSTANT COMPLAINERS

Earl Kimbrough

Some people are forever and eternally complaining. They criticize nearly everything that is said and done. They are constant complainers. Nobody ever exactly suits them.. Jesus condemned the mote-hunters as possessing a disposition contrary to that which should characterize a citizen of His kingdom. “And why beholdest thou the mote in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Matt.7:3). Notice the harm done by the constant complainer.

HE HAS THE WRONG OUTLOOK ON LIFE.

He sets himself up as a judge of others. In so doing he manifests an arrogant attitude unworthy of one who claims to follow Jesus. The constant complainer is always ready—whether bidden or not—to offer his criticism of the words and deeds of others. He judges where Jesus said, “judge not” (Matt. 7:1). This kind of judgment can in no wise be called righteous because its very roots are in the fault-finding spirit which is itself evil.

HE IS THE MOST SELF-CENTERED OF PERSONS.

He expects everyone to listen patiently to his complaints, but if someone complains of him, he becomes highly offended and deeply hurt. The constant complainer is very often one who is trying to cover his own insecurity by tearing down every one else. But one thing is sure, if one is going to be a mote-hunter, he may as well expect to be “mote-hunted.” Jesus said, “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Matt. 7:2).

HE IS BLINDED TO HIS OWN FAULTS.

The mote-hunter is so busy condemning what others say and o that he doesn't see the “beam” in his own eye. In reality he is blind to his faults, the chief of which may well be his fault-finding disposition. Mote-hunters commonly mistake their complaining of others to be simply a matter of being “frank and honest.” They take pride in saying what they “think.” But there is no virtue in being unable to control one's tongue.

HE IS OBNOXIOUS.

Nobody wants to hear complaining constantly. A nagging wife may run off a good husband (some have). People are just not going to listen to one who complains eternally and they will avoid the company of such persons as much as possible. The mote-hunter will find himself cut off and left out and he can blame none but himself for his isolation.

HE DISCOURAGES OTHERS.

Many good plans have been ruined by the ever-present complainer. I have had many good days ruined by having to listen to such. (That is, until I learned to file such complaints where they belong—in the garbage pail—and forget them). But many weak persons in the church are discouraged and even depart from the faith because of the fault-finders. The harm one does in hunting motes is untold.