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## QUIT YOUR WHINING

A poll among believers would surely reveal that the most popular epistle in the New Testament is the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians. It is a favorite of so many because the apostle says many positive things, especially about joy and rejoicing. Some 15 or 16 times, forms of these two words are used in just four short chapters.

It's impressive that an apostle who was in prison, awaiting a trial before the emperor of the Roman Empire, developed this theme. He was soon to make a defense of the gospel, and in so doing put his life on the line. During that time many of the brethren he had trained to preach the gospel had begun to turn their backs on him; they left him to stand alone in his defense (2 Tim. 4:9-11,16,17).

Not one time in the 104 verses of this letter does this defender of the faith complain about his circumstances, about the way close brethren had treated him, or about the opposition of false brethren. He even rejoiced that his enemies had preached Christ in Rome -- although it was done to create problems for him (Phil. 1:15-18). And amidst all that, he says plainly to the brethren at Philippi, "Do all things without murmuring and questionings" -- another way to say it is "quit your whining" (Phil. 2:14).

This epistle and this point have ever been a constant reminder to this brother not to gripe or complain about life. That doesn't mean that, like many among us, I'm not guilty. But I seldom do it that I don't soon think of Paul's circumstances and what he has said to us in this letter. In recent months when I find things to complain about, I take note of the first two verses of a song by Ira Stanfill titled Follow Me. Continued on the next page.....

