

How to Guarantee the Judgment of God Romans 1:18-21

Romans 1:18–21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Introduction

This past week I was doing some research on this mornings message and ran across a book written in 2008 entitled “A Culture of Crybabies: The 21st Century World of Wimps, Whiners, and Victims”.

In it the author writes,

“America has become a culture of crybabies. The once-thriving bastion of freedom and courage has evolved into a fearful and dependent culture of wimps, whiners, and victims. Character, responsibility, and achievement have morphed into Political Correctness, excused laziness, and a sense of entitlement”

Coming forward now into the year 2022, will need to write a new edition. That is an understatement now.

In another article

America, a Country of Ungrateful Whiners

the author betrays one of the most troubling trends that has been going for decades and getting worse and worse.

Talking about our country and the amazing benefits of living here as opposed to anywhere else on the planet

1) We dominate a continent which is bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Oh, and throw in the added benefit of the Caribbean Sea/ Gulf of Mexico to the south.

To the north and south are the nominally friendly, but certainly weaker nations of Canada and Mexico.

No other nation on the planet enjoys these natural barriers against adversarial interference. We also enjoy numerous deep-water, protected harbors in all of our coastal regions, although our harbor infrastructure is kind-of second rate. Again, no other nation possesses such jewels in such abundance.

2) Although other countries may have major river systems (Yangtze and Yalu, Rhine, Amazon, Nile, etc.) they all pale in comparison to the mighty Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio riverine network that continuously transports giga-tons of freight throughout the eastern and midwestern USA. Sadly, again the infrastructure is in a state of rapid decay.

3) We have one of the most benign climates of any country. In most parts of the USA it is neither too hot, nor too cold, neither too dry nor too wet. Goldilocks would be happy almost anywhere even though grumbling about the weather is an American pastime.

4) We have been blessed with huge tracts of some of the most fertile land, capable of producing the most beneficial, and nutritious foods.

Of course there is more, a lot more to it. The point is that each of those benefits listed above are a gift from nature. They are all accidents of geology. They would all exist whether humans exist or not. None of them have a ... thing to do with the exceptionalism or greatness of the American people. We just so happen to be **the luckiest bunch of ungrateful whiners on this planet.**

<https://contraryperspective.com/2020/07/03/america-a-country-of-ungrateful-whiners/>

This is the commonly typical and tragic view of most Americans today. A Godless world view that sees everything as a mere collision of atoms or an accidental clumping of star dust. A world where giving thanks makes no sense, since there is not a creator to gives thanks too. And to call something a blessing would be absurd, since random atoms colliding together can't bless anything, and the last time I saw the result of that it was an atomic explosions.

What is more troubling than all of this is, what happens to a people who forget God. Who no longer see the need, or feel the need to be Thankful to Him This is what leads me to my topic today.

How to guarantee the Judgement of God. Or.....The Real Sin of Thanklessness

Did you know that not being thankful is a sin? Most Christians that I talk to believe it is a sin and know that we should practice being more thankful but I'm not so sure that most understand the severity of the sin. I often hear, "Oh, I forgot to say thanks" or "I should be more thankful" which is good but I'm not sure we understand the magnitude of this omission.

Being unthankful is one of the most egregious sins a human can commit. It is a fruit of the self-centered sinfully autonomous nature of man. It is an expression of atheism and a blatant denial of what is rightfully God's. It ranks at the top of ways to express your rebellion against God.

It is in the list of some of the worse sins in the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:1–4 (NKJV)

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

Luke 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ **But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**

[English Standard Version](#)

For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, **ungrateful**, unholy,

[NASB 1995](#)

For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, **ungrateful**, unholy,

acharistos: ungracious, ungrateful

Original Word: ἀχάριστος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: acharistos

Phonetic Spelling: (ach-ar'-is-tos)

Definition: ungracious, ungrateful

Usage: ungrateful, ungracious, unpleasing.

884 axáristos (an adjective, derived from 1 /A "not" and 5483 /xarízomai, "experiencing grace") – properly, without God's grace (favor) which results in unthankfulness (literally, "ungraceful").

Luke 17:11–18 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. ¹³ And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

¹⁴ So when He saw *them*, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? ¹⁸ Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

Notice, that the giving of Glory to God and the giving of thanks appear in the same response that Jesus expects for the healing. The Samaritan Leper, returned and with a loud voice (φωνῆς μεγάλης) and Glorified God (P.A. Part. —continually glorifying God), and giving thanks (P.A.Part. —continually giving thanks)

Thanks — — εὐχαριστέω ① to show that one is under obligation, *be thankful, feel obligated to thank.* ② to express appreciation for benefits or blessings, *give thanks, express thanks, render/return thanks*

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 415). University of Chicago Press.

This is not the only time that the Glory of God and the giving of thanks are seen in the same context and closely associated together as one and the same.

1 Corinthians 10:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food over which I give thanks?*

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Romans 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

This brings me to the first and most vital points to understand how you can guarantee the judgment of God.

1. A Denial of God's Glory

We see this here in this text in Romans 1. Judgment comes on men, the wrath of God is constantly being revealed from heaven on men who refuse to give God glory and to give Him thanks.

This refusal to give God Glory and give Him thanks leads to in verses 21-28

1. futility in their thinking
2. a darkening of the heart
3. becoming fools, deceiving themselves
4. worshipping gods of their own imagination.
5. exchanging truth for the lie v.25
6. not wanting to keep God in their mind. v28

As a result,

God gives men and women over to destruction

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness,

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

gave them up =====paradídōmi (from [3844](#) /pará, "from close-beside" and [1325](#) /dídōmi, "give") – properly, to give (turn) over; "hand over from," i.e. to deliver over with a sense of close (personal) involvement.

From [para](#) and [didomi](#); to surrender, i.e yield up, intrust, transmit -- betray, bring forth, cast, commit, deliver (up), give (over, up), hazard, put in prison, recommend. Please notice, all of this is in response to man refusing to Glorify God and give Him thanks!

This is the explanation of what it means to v. 18 suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

What is rightfully God's is denied him by his creature. It is a blatant refusal to acknowledge what is most obvious. There is no greater sin that to refuse to give God glory.

According to Scripture. The Glory of God is the reason why everything was created in the first place.

Romans 11:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶ yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*.

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

1 Chronicles 29:11–14 (NKJV)

¹¹ Yours, O Lord, *is* the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is Yours*;
Yours *is* the kingdom, O Lord,
And You are exalted as head over all.

¹² Both riches and honor *come* from You,
 And You reign over all.
 In Your hand *is* power and might;
 In Your hand *it is* to make great
 And to give strength to all.

¹³ “Now therefore, our God,
 We thank You
 And praise Your glorious name.

¹⁴ But who *am* I, and who *are* my people,
 That we should be able to offer so willingly as this?
 For all things *come* from You,
 And of Your own we have given You.

Proverbs 16:4 (NKJV)

⁴ The Lord has made all for Himself,
 Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)

¹³ **And do not lead us into temptation,
 But deliver us from the evil one.
 For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the
 glory forever. Amen.**

Romans 16:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ to God, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ
 forever. Amen.

Psalm 29:1–2 (NKJV)

- 1 Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones,
Give unto the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name;
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Revelation 4:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

- ¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.”

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God!

Exodus 20:1–5 (NKJV)

And God spoke all these words, saying:

- 2 “I *am* the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image— any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,

Exodus 20:7 (NKJV)

- 7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Matthew 22:35–38 (NKJV)

³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.

Deuteronomy 6:1–15 (NKJV)

“Now this *is* the commandment, *and these are* the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe *them* in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰ “So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, ¹¹ houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—¹² then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ¹³ You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who *are* all around you ¹⁵ (for the Lord your God *is* a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

Let's return to the text,

notice the first word in v 21

Romans 1:21–28 (NKJV)

²¹ **because**, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful,

To understand this because, we have to back up to verse 18

Romans 1:18–21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For (gar)

This tells us that what he is about to say explains why he said the previous statement.

Romans 1:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, *“The just shall live by faith.”*

The Gospel is good news because sinful men can be made righteous by faith, not works, since men are utterly incapable of being or becoming righteous as expressed in God’s relation to them.

v. 18.... the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

How is that they suppress truth that brings wrath?

v¹⁹ because....

διότι *dióti*; conj. made up from *diá* (1223), for, and *hóti* (3754), that. On account of this or that, for this reason, that, simply because, for

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

v.19.... the wrath of God is revealed on those who are suppressing the truth, **FOR THIS REASON** that, what may be known of God is manifest in them, for (gar - how is God made clear to them).....God has shown *it* to them. **HOW** --

V20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.....**HOW**, in what way are they without excuse

v.21 because **διότι FOR THIS REASON** although they knew God, v. 19 God has shown them who He is through creation **YET EVEN KNOWING THAT THERE IS A GOD AND WHAT HE IS LIKE**,..... they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful,

The main point of this passage is that men who know there is God and know what He is like through creation, refuse to acknowledge Him or praise Him or Thank Him

This is what places men under judgement without

excuse

anapologétos: without excuse

Original Word: ἀναπολόγητος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: anapologétos

Phonetic Spelling: (an-ap-ol-og'-ay-tos)

Definition: without excuse

Usage: without (ground of) defense, indefensible, inexcusable.

379 anapologētos (an adjective, derived from 1 /A "not" and 626 /apologéomai, "to argue a case") – properly, without rationale, lacking any justified defense (argument) – hence inexcusable because without any genuine foundation.

It is inexcusable, indefensible, non rational and sinful to not glorify and thank God. This refusal expresses itself in self centered, idolatrous worship. It replaces the true God with a god of sinful passions.

This ingratitude and unwillingness to acknowledge God in a meaningful and honoring way opens the flood gates of the wrath of God.

It is the root all all sin and rebellion —Pride

Pride is simply an exaltation of self for the glory of self over the glory of God.

It is the reason Satan fell, he desired the glory and refused to give God the glory and thank him for his existence

It is the real Adam and Eve fell, they desired to be autonomous gods and take the Glory from God.

When someone is thankless. They are in essence saying to God that your power to create me, sustain me, provide for me, protect me, allow me to live, to have mercy on me will not be acknowledged.

Hence, to rightly attribute to God what is rightfully His.

So when we talk of atheism, or agnosticism

There is no such thing.

You can say as the atheist, that you don't believe there is a God.... but the bible says you are suppressing the truth about God that you know.

You can say as the agnostic, that you don't know if there is a God.....but the Bible says you do know and you suppress that truth because you love your sin.

You can say that evolution is true, but what you are indicating is a refusal to rightfully acknowledge God as the creator and a refusal to give Him the Glory and a refusal to acknowledge His power, benevolence and mercy in your life by refusing to thank Him.

This is no small sin, It is the sin of sins, the father of lies, the mountain upon which most will die. It is the expression of depravity at its worse. A peek into the dark recesses of the fallen human heart.

Dr. Barnhouse has this very, very potent paragraph. "Will God give man brains to see these things and will man then fail to exercise his will toward that

God? The sorrowful answer is that both of these things are true. God will give a man brains to smelt iron and make a hammerhead and nails. God will grow a tree and give man strength to cut it down and brains to fashion a hammer handle from its wood. And when man has the hammer and the nails God will put out His hand and let men drive those nails through it, and place Him on a cross in the supreme demonstration that men are without excuse. <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/45-11/reasons-for-the-wrath-of-god-part-2>

So the next time you forget to thank God. Think of this Text in the Bible.

So being Unthankful is

1. A Denial of God's Glory

2.A Defiance of God's Sovereignty

Philippians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing,
1 Peter 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹ *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.*

goggusmos: a muttering, murmuring

Original Word: γογγυσμός, οὐ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: goggusmos

Phonetic Spelling: (gong-goos-mos')

Definition: a muttering, murmuring

Usage: murmuring, grumbling.

gogguzó: to mutter, murmur

Original Word: γογγύζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: gogguzó

Phonetic Spelling: (gong-good'-zo)

Definition: to mutter, murmur

Usage: I whisper, murmur, grumble (generally of smoldering discontent).

1111 goggýzō (an onomatopoetic term imitating the sound of cooing doves) – to murmur or mutter (grumble) with muffled undertones; (figuratively) murmur, grumble; to show "smoldering discontent" (Souter), droning on in a low, constant murmur.

[Examples of onomatopoetic words in English (mimicking particular sounds) include: bubble, murmur, and grumble (see WP, 1, 160).]

Complaining is a refusal to acknowledge the Sovereign plan of God in your life. It is a usurpation of the wisdom and knowledge of God. It is High treason against the authority and rule of God. It is in essence, you telling God that 'you do not know what you are doing'.

It is the opposite of thankfulness and is the hearts way of expressing rebellion.

Men and woman have been complaining since sin entered the garden.

Remember when Adam and Eve sinned. What was there excuse.....a complaint.

When Adam was confronted, he complained, it was the woman you gave me...

When Eve was confronted, she complained, it was the serpent in the garden.

Since then, billions upon billions of complaints have gone up into the throne room of God and told God you have no clue what you are doing and I refuse to appreciate or thank you for what you have purposed. Some complaints ascended this morning on the way to church.

The Bible is clear that God hates complaining. In fact, some of the most startling displays of God's wrath have been because of complaining.

Numbers 21:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless

bread.”⁶ So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

Numbers 16:41–45 (NKJV)

⁴¹ On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, saying, “You have killed the people of the Lord.”⁴² Now it happened, when the congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared.⁴³ Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting.

⁴⁴ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,⁴⁵ “Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.”

And they fell on their faces.

1 Corinthians 10:7–12 (NKJV)

⁷ And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, “*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*”⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were

destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

The **destroyer** was the same angel who had slain the firstborn of the Egyptians before Israel left Egypt (Ex. 12:23), who would kill 70,000 men because of David's census (2 Sam. 24:15–16), and who, in response to the prayer of Isaiah and Hezekiah, would destroy the entire Assyrian army that was besieging Jerusalem (2 Chron. 32:21).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1984). [1 Corinthians](#) (p. 225). Moody Press.

Numbers 11:1–35 (NKJV)

Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp.

² Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched.

³ So he called the name of the place Taberah,

because the fire of the Lord had burned among them.

⁴ Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!”

⁷ Now the manna *was* like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. ⁸ The people went about and gathered *it*, ground *it* on millstones or beat *it* in the mortar, cooked *it* in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil. ⁹ And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.

¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased..... ¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’¹⁸ So the Lord said to Moses:say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing

of the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For *it was* well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹ You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, ²⁰ but *for* a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you,

zārā', *n.c.*, nausea. 1×

Root: 2 זור. Cognates: זר

loathsome *adj.*, *highly offensive; arousing aversion or disgust.* Nu 11:20 (1×)

(2017). In [The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible](#). Lexham Press.

because you have despised the Lord who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?” ’ ”

²¹ And Moses said, “The people whom I *am* among *are* six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You have said, ‘I will give them meat, that they may eat *for* a whole month.’ ²² Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?”

²³ And the Lord said to Moses, “Has the Lord’s arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not.”

³¹ Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quail from the sea and left *them* fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. ³² And the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers); and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp. ³³ But while the meat *was* still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. ³⁴ So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving. Graves of lust

God burned many in His wrath for complaining and not thanking Him for his goodness and wisdom. Then he gives them the meat they were lusting after until it made them sick.

This a a classic Romans 1 example of those who refuse to give God Glory for his goodness and Sovereign wise plans and instead complain and are unthankful and God gives them over to their own lust to destroy themselves.

Murmuring is dissatisfaction with God's sovereign will for our lives and the lives of others, and is a sin that He does not take lightly, even in view of His grace. When God's people question or complain, they are challenging His wisdom, His grace, His goodness, His love, and His righteousness. Our need for contentment is not merely for our own well-being, which it is, but for God's honor and glory. Complaining dishonors our heavenly Father; contentment glorifies Him.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1984). [1 Corinthians](#) (p. 225). Moody Press.

William Hendriksen says, "When a person prays without thanksgiving he has clipped the wings of prayer so that it cannot rise." When you enter God's presence harboring ingratitude, your worship is unacceptable.

If we know

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

why should we complain

If we know that

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good,.....

why should we complain

If we know

Psalms 119:71 (NKJV)

⁷¹ *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted,
That I may learn Your statutes.

why should we complain

If we know

James 1:2–3 (NKJV)

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

why should we complain

If we know

1 Peter 1:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though

it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor,
and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
why should we complain

If we know

Revelation 3:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.
Therefore be zealous and repent.**

why should we complain

If we know

Psalms 37:23 (NKJV)

²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the Lord,
And He delights in his way

why should we complain

If we know

Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)

⁹ A man's heart plans his way,
But the Lord directs his steps.

why should we complain

If we know

Isaiah 46:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning,

And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet*
done,

Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,'

¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east,
The man who executes My counsel, from a far
country.

Indeed I have spoken *it*;
I will also bring it to pass.
I have purposed *it*;
I will also do it.

why should we complain

If we know

Psalm 46:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present
help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the
midst of the sea;

³ *Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

why should we complain

In the fall of 1620, the *Mayflower* set sail for Virginia with 102 Calvinist Separatist passengers on board. On December 16, they landed in Massachusetts, far north of their intended destination, just as winter was setting in. This northern climate was much harsher than Virginia's, and the settlers were unprepared for the cold season ahead. Winter brought bitter temperatures and rampant sickness. Shelter was rudimentary. Food was scarce. People lay dying.

That winter, all but three families dug graves in the hard New England soil to bury a husband, wife, or child. By the spring of 1621, half of the Pilgrims had died from disease and starvation. No one was untouched by tragedy.

And yet in the midst of these monumental losses, the Pilgrims chose to give thanks. They saw in Scripture God was to be thanked in all their circumstances. They remembered

1Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)¹

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ephesians 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

Job 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And he said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked shall I return there.
The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;
Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Psalms, “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 118:1).

The Pilgrims chose to be grateful for what they had, rather than to focus on all they had lost. They had to look for blessings. Actively and deliberately. Their thanksgiving was not based on pleasant circumstances, but rather on the understanding that God was to be thanked in both prosperity and adversity. Their gratitude was not a “positive thinking” façade, but a deep and steadfast trust that God was guiding all their circumstances, even when life was difficult. Viewing their lives through a lens of gratitude changed their perspective <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/look-through-the-lens-of-thanksgiving>

Ephesians 5:18–21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and
making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the
Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of
God.

Colossians 1:9–14 (NKJV)

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.