

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“What It Means To Be Faithful To God”

by Brian Meade

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.” (Hebrews 3:1-6)



The third chapter of Hebrews brings faithfulness to the forefront of the discussion of Jewish Christians STAYING FIRM to their commitment to Christ. The Hebrew writer also speaks to the superiority of Christ over Moses and why He is worthy of such faithfulness on our part. But the chapter as a whole— as well as the entire book of Hebrews— has an underlying theme of what faithfulness IS and what faithfulness IS NOT!

The Greek word for faithful is *pistos*, a verbal adjective, akin to *peitho* (see faith), is used in two senses, (a) passive, “faithful, to be trusted, reliable,” (b) active, signifying “believing, trusting, relying,” (Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words Vol. 2, p. 223).

Faithfulness is all about believing, trusting, and obeying God for all the days of our life here on the earth. It’s about holding fast to our commitment to God and never giving up on His promises. It’s about not compromising with evil, even when it is the harder road to travel. But God calls us to faithfulness!

I. Faithful In Good Moral Conduct.

Notice in Titus 2:11-12, “*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,*”

And also notice in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 & 7, “*For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,*” (3-4) He concludes his thought in verse 7, “*For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.*”

One of the greatest challenges to being a Christian is to be faithful to God by abiding in His teaching on what is good and proper morality. It is not easy because of the worldliness and immorality that so dominates the thinking, and thus the actions of many around us. Satan does his work well in tempting men and women to immoral conduct— behavior that is not God’s will for man and can never please Him (1 Thessalonians 4:1). But we must go against the tide and choose to live God’s way and not our own!

It was for faithfulness that Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, “*but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*” Paul did not want to be unfaithful in regard to fulfilling lusts and desires of the flesh, thus he carefully disciplined his body. And if we desire to do God’s will, we must “deny ungodliness and worldly desires” to be faithful to His call.

Some might argue that it is impossible to stay morally pure for any great length of time, but that's where God's grace and forgiveness is still needed in the Christian's life—as they repent and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22).

Scriptures such as 1 John 1:7-10 are often properly used to show the forgiveness accessible to children of God when they sin. As we know by experience, "Christians aren't perfect, but they are forgiven." Sin must be immediately dealt with to avoid a continuance in it, and it should never be what defines our lives. Righteousness, holiness, and purity should be the norm for us, so that we may be called faithful in the Judgment Day. (2 Peter 3:10-14).

II. Faithful In Duties & Responsibilities To God.

The Bible tells us of the faithfulness of Daniel, *"Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him."* (Daniel 6:4) Notice there was not anything to charge him with in connection to carrying out his duties and responsibilities in "government affairs."

Note the faithfulness of Hannah in Nehemiah 7:2, *"then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many."* Hananiah was a trustworthy man and a strong believer in God (a great combination), and thus a good choice to put in charge of great responsibility. Nehemiah put both men in charge of Jerusalem in his absence, as it is supposed that he went back to Persia (Nehemiah 2:6).

Paul also knew he could depend on the young evangelist Timothy and said, *"Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 4:17) And even further spoke of Timothy's faithfulness, as he said, *"But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state."* (Philippians 2:19-20)

In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), the lesson of faithfulness that pleases the Lord versus unfaithfulness that leads to punishment is clearly shown by our Lord. The men with five and two talents did exactly what their master wanted—while the one talent man buried his talent and failed in the responsibility given him to perform (Matthew 25:24-27).

We must be faithful in carrying out our duties in the world of faithfully teaching the lost (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16), faithfully being a good example and influence for good (Matthew 5:13-16), faithfully doing good works of service to others (Matthew 25:35-36; Galatians 6:10), faithfully studying the Scriptures (1 Timothy 4:13-16).

Let us conclude this thought with the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:2, *"Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."*

III. Faithful To God's Word.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:45-46, *"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing."*

The answer to this rhetorical question by our Lord is that every servant of the Lord should be faithful in the word and be rewarded. But the sad reality is, Not all claiming to serve the Lord are faithful to the ministry (see verses 48-51).

The apostle Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:12, *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,"* Paul was faithful in teaching and preaching accurately the word of God, as all faithful ministers of the word need to be! Paul taught "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), and left nothing out (Acts 20:20). Paul charged the brethren to make sure no one taught another doctrine/gospel (1 Timothy 1:3; Galatians 1:6-9). Paul also told the brethren, *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* (2 Timothy 2:2) May all ministers be faithful to God's charge!

V. God Rewards The Faithful.

We must keep in sight that faithfulness will be rewarded on that Day, even through hardships and suffering— *"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* (Revelation 2:10).

Paul said of his own life, *"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 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 4:6-8)

But let us end with the words of Jesus—the Judge and the Rewarder of the faithful—*"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"* (Matthew 25:21) May we be found faithful on that Day!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor.

Danny Cottrell will have a port put in next week and will begin Chemo treatments.

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Billy Randolph will begin Sunday, April 19th—24th. Monday the Friday (20—24) starting time is 7:00 PM Nightly.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"The Prosperity Gospel Perversion"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Jerry Kennemur
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)
Page #83, Question #5

Announcements: Sam Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Psalm 144:9-15
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Nathan Meade & Brian Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"How God Can Make You Happy"*
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

March 4th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
The Book of Psalms (Randy Blackaby)
Page #55, Question #2
Invitation: Doug George
Song Leader: Russell Briggs
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.