

Faithfulness

Introduction:

1. One of the greatest compliments that one can make of another is to say “that person is faithful,” or “that person is dependable,” or “that person is trustworthy.”
2. One of the greatest assurances a husband or wife can have is the assurance that his or her mate is faithful. That assurance can serve a person well during times of distress.
 - a. Illus. the late J.D. Tant’s, 1861-1941, wife (when her husband was away in successive gospel meetings) received a letter, saying “your husband closed his meeting here and left for parts unknown with a woman of ill repute.” She replied, saying, “where ever my husband is, I am sure he is doing our Father’s business. Go and do thou likewise.”
 - (1) She had complete confidence in his faithfulness to her, and was not shaken by a letter from a disgruntled member of a local church where her husband had preached the word.
3. Faithfulness is very important! In fact, it is a requirement for salvation! Rev. 2:10; Matt. 25:21,23.

Discussion:

I. Faithfulness Defined.

- A. Wikipedia, the Free Dictionary.
 1. Faithfulness “is the concept of unfailingly remaining loyal to someone or something and putting loyalty into consistent practice, regardless of extenuating circumstances.”
 - a. This means that faithfulness is not seasonal, I Cor. 4:1,2; 2 Tim. 4:2,7
- B. Synonyms for Faithfulness.
 1. “True,” “constant,” “loyal,” “steadfast,” “devoted,” “trusty,” etc.

II. The Bible says a Lot about Faithfulness.

- A. God is faithful (such is a part of His character).
 1. I Cor. 1:9; I Cor. 10:13; I Thess. 5:24; 2 Thess. 3:3; Heb. 10:23.
 2. In saying “*God is faithful*,” the scriptures are affirming that God can be depended on; He will keep His promises. This is why:
 - a. Sarah was “*delivered of a child*,” Heb. 11:11.
 - b. We commit our souls to Him, I Pet. 4:19.
 - c. We confess our sins, I John 1:9.
 3. Because God is faithful:
 - a. His prophecies were fulfilled, Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:21-23.
 - b. His promise are honored, Gen. 12:7; Joshua 21:43-45.
 - c. His warnings are carried out, Jer. 25:11; 2 Chron. 36:20,21.
- B. Jesus Christ is Faithful.
 1. Heb. 2:17; 3:2,5,6; Rev. 1:5; Rev. 19:11.
 2. To call a person “*faithful*” is to call him by nothing less than one of the titles of Jesus!
- C. The Scriptures are Faithful.
 1. I Tim. 1:15; I Tim. 3:1; I Tim. 4:9; Tit. 1:9; Tit. 3:8; Rev. 21:5; Rev. 22:6
 2. Because the Scriptures are “faithful,” we can depend upon them to state the truth on any subject they discuss.
 3. Because the Scriptures are “*faithful*,” we must not pervert them in any way!
 - a. On the one hand, such is a foolish endeavor! Isaiah 55:8,9.
 - b. On the other hand, such is a spiritually dangerous endeavor, Gal. 1:8-9; 2 John 9; Rev. 22:18-19.
- D. We also read about “*Faithful*” people.
 1. Paul, I Tim. 1:12.
 2. Paul’s helpers:
 - a. Timothy, 1 Cor. 4:17.
 - b. Tychicus, Eph. 6:21.
 - c. Epaphras, Col. 1:7.
 3. Others so described included:
 - a. Silvanus, I Pet. 5:12.
 - b. Gaius, 3 John 5.
 - c. Antipas, Rev. 2:13.
 - (1) “A man who is faithful would rather lose his life than his honor.”
- E. The Bible also talks about Unfaithfulness.
 - A. “*An unfaithful man*,” Prov. 25:19.

B. Ancient Israel “*dealt unfaithfully*,” Ps. 78:57.

1. Were like a “*deceitful bow*.”

C. The Scribes and Pharisees, Matt. 23:23.

III. The Fact is this: If we expect to go to heaven we must be faithful!

A. Scriptures: Matt. 25:21,23; Rev. 2:10.

B. Observe:

1. A “*faithful*” person honors his commitments, is reliable, trust worthy, keeps his promises, can be depended on.

a. Illus. “Old Faithful” in Yellowstone National Park –Received its name in 1870, erupts every 35 to 120 minutes, one of the most predictable geographical features on earth.

2. A faithful person honors his commitments – not because of the nature of his commitments, but because of the nature of the person he is.

a. Illus. Michaelangelo painting the frescoes on the high ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. For hours, high on a scaffold, he lay on his back carefully perfecting the details of every figure. A friend wondered “why,” pointing out that at that height no one would know if the frescoes were less than perfect. His reply: “I would know.”

3. A Faithful person keeps his promises.

a. Illus. One stormy night an elderly couple entered the lobby of a small hotel and asked for a room. The clerk said they were filled, as were all the hotels in town. “But I can’t send a fine couple like you out in the rain,” he said. “Would you be willing to sleep in my room?” The couple hesitated, but the clerk insisted. The next morning when the man paid his bill, he said, “You’re the kind of man who should be managing the best hotel in the U.S. Someday I’ll build you one.” The clerk smiled politely. A few years later the clerk received a letter from the elderly man, recalling that stormy night and asking him to come to New York. A round trip ticket was enclosed. When the clerk arrived, his host took him to the corner of 5th Ave. and 34th St, where stood a magnificent new building. “That,” explained the man, “is the hotel I have built for you to manage.” The man was William Waldorf Astor, and the hotel was the original Waldorf-Astoria. The young clerk, George C. Boldt, became its first manager.

IV. In What Realms must we be “*Faithful*?”

A. The Religious Realm.

1. Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 2:2.

2. Daniel 1:8.

3. Includes being faithful to the local church, the local family of God.

B. The Domestic Realm.

1. I Tim. 3:11.

2. “Unfaithful” is from *apistos*, the “a” signifying “un” or “without.” Translated “*infidel*” in I Tim. 5:8.

a. A person who is sexually untrue to his or her mate is guilty of sexual infidelity.

b. But true faithfulness includes more than just sexual fidelity; note also the vows: Eccl. 5:2,4.

C. The Social Realm.

1. Life in the everyday world involves making agreements, promises, etc.

2. I Cor. 4:2.

D. The Economic Realm.

1. Be willing to work, Gen. 3:19.

2. Be dependable on the job, Tit. 2:10.

E. The Civil Realm.

1. Rom. 13:1; Matt. 22:21.

2. Obey the civil authorities until, or unless, they require us to violate the law of God! Acts 5:29.

Conclusion:

1. To be rewarded in that last day we must be “*good and faithful*” servants of the Lord, Matt. 25:21,23.

a. To be His servants we must be children in His family, and that begins with the new birth, John 3:3-5.

b. Once we are born again, into the family of God, we must be faithful.

2. There are some things you can never be. But you **can** be – a “*good and faithful servant*” of God.

--Bobby Witherington, May 1, 2016