

FAITHFULNESS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Every preacher often looks over sermons and works to be sure nothing important is overlooked.
- B. In life of a congregation, a number of things are important and none must be omitted.
- C. In seeking to emphasize the things that are essential to the growth & progress of a church, this one thing seems to be the foundation for all else: faithfulness.
- D. This lesson is not necessarily an indictment for unfaithfulness, (if the shoe fits) but an exhortation to do more and to be more faithful
- E. A church that is not filled with faithful members will have problems and drift without accomplishing much. A church that is faithful, though having problems, will continue to be a force for good.
- F. But a faithful church is a church with faithful members. The goal should be for every member to be faithful.
- G. What does it mean to be faithful, and how do we express this quality?

DISCUSSION:

I. DEFINITION:

- A. Hebrew: (OT) - Strong's: properly, to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain
- B. Greek: (NT) - Thayer: trusty, faithful; of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties; one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust; that can be relied on
- C. Provides basis upon which dependability is assured. We would be in sad world without faithfulness in anything: business, family, education, knowledge, etc.
- D. Take it for granted, but without faithfulness in everyday commerce and relationships we are lost.
- E. Not just dealing with being at all the assemblies
- F. Very common word in Bible and provides basis for judgment of the disciples.

II. USAGE IN SCRIPTURES

- A. God is faithful 1Cor 1:9 1Cor 10:13; Deut 7:9
 1. Our whole relationship with God is predicated on our conviction that He is faithful.
 2. Pagans who thought their gods to be untrustworthy and unfaithful in a woeful condition

- B. Jesus is faithful Rev 1:5; Heb 2:17; 3:2
- C. Therefore, God wants man to be faithful
 1. Psa 101:6 Eyes on faithful of the land
 2. 1Cor 4:2 Stewards required to be faithful."
 3. Matt 24:45-51 Faithful and wise servant made ruler
 4. Lk 16:10 Faithful in least - faithful also in much
 5. 1Pet 4:19 Commit soul in well-doing unto faithful Creator
 6. Rev 2:10 Be faithful unto death

III. APPLY DEFINITION AND SCRIPTURES TO

- A. Bible study 1Pet 2:1,2
- B. Assembling together Heb 10:24-26
- C. Singing Eph 5:19; Col 3:16 Matt 26:30
- D. Praying (not just in assembly) 1Thess 5:17; Lk 6:12
- E. Giving 1Cor 16:1-2; 2Cor 8 & 9; 2Cor 9:7
- F. Lord's Supper 1Cor 11:23-29; Matt 26:26-28
- G. All work (teaching, visiting, helping, etc.) Gal 6:9-10; 2Thess 3:13

CONCLUSION:

- A. Is husband faithful who comes home once in a while? Would wife be satisfied if husband only brought home a paycheck a few times a year? Would wife be faithful who prepared meals twice a year; only washed clothes when it suited her or was seldom home when needed?
- B. Is a student faithful who only shows up at school when they want to and is not regular in attendance? Is a student faithful who never gets assignments or moves forward from grade to grade, but stays in 1st grade for 12 years?
- C. Can we be considered faithful when we are spasmodic and irregular in assembling together and work for the Lord.
- D. Is a Christian faithful who has no sense of responsibility to the church and depends on everyone else to see that work is done, bills are paid, physical and spiritual needs of brethren are met?
- E. Is a Christian faithful who thinks it's ok to miss assemblies, Lord's supper, contribution, classes, gospel meetings; home Bible studies; living according to Bible?
- F. There is a lot more to being faithful than just being at all the assemblies! Am I and are you faithful?