

Bryan Station Baptist Church

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THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

BY: C. D. COLE

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God" (Deut. 7:9).

Faithfulness is one of the sweetest and most comforting of the divine attributes. Faithfulness belongs to God; fickleness characterizes sinful men. The faithfulness of God is a practical truth for the believer. It is a pillow for his weary head, a stimulant for his fainting heart, and a brace for his feeble knees. In all the pressing demands of life God can be safely relied upon. He will never disappoint the trusting soul. He will never suffer His faithfulness to fail. The faithfulness of God coupled with His mighty power is our everlasting hope. Men disappoint us because they are lacking either in faithfulness or power. But we can look above the wreck and ruin caused by the unfaithfulness of men and behold One who is great in faithfulness. We may be assured that "He is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23).



Unfaithfulness is one of the outstanding characteristics of these evil days. Who has not suffered at the hands of unfaithful men? And where is the man who has not been guilty, in some measure at least, of this very sin? In the economic world nearly all failures are the results of unfaithful debtors or employees. In the social realm marital infidelity has become a terrible scourge; the sacred bonds of wedlock are broken with the ease of discarding an old garment. In the political world pre-election promises are broken as flippantly as they are made. In international affairs treaties between nations are treated as mere scraps of paper. There is fear and alarm everywhere as men learn that they cannot trust one another. And in the religious realm unfaithfulness is as evident as anywhere

Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned Nursery Provided

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else. Multitudes who profess to believe the Bible are ignoring great portions of it, pronouncing the other parts out of date, and withal seeking to explain much of it away.

A reporter for one of the big American dailies, who witnessed the battle of the Alcazar in war-torn, bullet-riddled and blood-soaked Spain, lying upon his hospital bed in France, spoke to his manager across the ocean, and said, "I'm sick of humanity!" The human race began its downward career in the garden of plenty by unfaithfulness to its Creator, and by the same sin is destroying itself. Here is a question for heart-searching: Have we been the cause of grief to others by our unfaithfulness? Has wife, husband, child, parent, neighbor, pastor, brother, or anyone else been brought to grief by our unfaithfulness? Remember the tears caused by wrong-doing are kept in God's bottle to be brought as evidence in the day of judgment.

THE FAITHFUL GOD: There is One who is great in faithfulness. Faithfulness is a perfection in God by which He is true to His word and to all His covenant engagements. He never breaks a contract with Himself or with His creatures. What he has purposed that will He do, and what He has promised that will He perform. Lying is one of the most prevalent sins of all times. It was the belief of a lie that caused the ruin of the human race. Adam and Eve turned away from God's word and followed the father of lies. And all their children have followed in their steps. The children of Israel, in the long ago, would actually beg their prophets to preach lies to them. They cried, "Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits" (Isa. 30:10). In our day lying has been camouflaged with the big word "propaganda."

The proneness to tell and believe lies is one of the most startling facts of human history. Of only one man has it ever been truthfully said that there was no deceit in His mouth. And this was the God-man, Christ Jesus, the Truth incarnate. (Isa. 53:9).

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS SON: The Son's covenant was the obligation to assume human nature in His incarnation, voluntarily renouncing the glory He had with the Father before the world was....to become obedient to the death of the cross. The consideration held out to Him, as a hope set before Him, inducing Him to endure the shame of the cross, and the reward bestowed upon Him because of that obedience, was His resurrection, His glorification, His exaltation to the royal priestly throne and the right to judge.

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS SAINTS: God has made promises to poor, helpless, mourning believers in Christ and He will faithfully perform every promise He has made. "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (Rom. 11:29). This means that God is true to His covenant promises, and will not fail to glorify all the called. All the promises of God in Christ are "yea" (certain) so that every believer can say "amen" to the glory of God (II Cor. 1:20).

THE GROUND OF OUR SECURITY: The ground of our security is God's faithfulness to His Son. "God is faithful by whom ye were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Cor. 1:9). According to covenant engagements Jesus Christ was to have fellows or companions. Now, by the calling of God (the effectual call of the Spirit by the word) we were first admitted into fellowship with Christ, and the ultimate objective is our presence with Him in glory. And this is guaranteed by

the faithfulness of God, Who will confirm us unto the end (I Cor. 1:8), for the called are to be justified and glorified. The called and justified are safe as long as God keeps His word to His Son. Freedom from chastisement depends upon the believer's good behaviour, but certainty of glory rests upon God's faithfulness to His Son.

"If His children forsake my law and walk not in my commandments; then will I visit their transgressions with the rod and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from Him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, not alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and His throne as the sun before me" (Ps. 89:30-36).

What a firm foundation for our faith! Our safety does not rest upon our faithfulness to God, but upon God's faithfulness to His Son. HALLELUJAH!

PRESERVATION: God is faithful in preserving His people. "The Lord loveth judgment and forsaketh not His saints; they are preserved forever" (Ps. 37:28). "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (Jno. 10:27-29). Whatever is preserved is helpless to keep itself. The saints are weak, but they are kept by the power of God (I Peter 1:5). God's promise to the believer is everlasting life. And this is not everlasting existence, but everlasting favor or justification so that he will never come under condemnation again (Jno. 5:24).

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto (at) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it" (I Thess. 5:23). Here is the believer's complete sanctification and deliverance from sin made to depend upon the faithfulness of God. The called are not only justified, they will also be glorified, for God is faithful. God is not going to call sinners with the effectual, life-giving call and then leave them stranded on the highway to glory. There is no "coffin-corner" for the souls of the saints. Neither will their evacuation be a Dunkirk. Those who have fled to Jesus Christ as a refuge from the storm of Divine wrath have God's word and His oath, two immutable things in which it is not possible for Him to lie, as the ground of their hope.

DISCIPLINE: God is faithful in disciplining His people. The psalmist cries: "I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that Thou has in faithfulness afflicted me" (Ps. 119:75). Here David submits to God's dealings with him and acknowledges that they are right and good. In David's creed there was no place for luck or chance. He believed that God ordered all that befell him. His afflictions were most painful, but He saw God's hand in them and believed they were for his good. But he goes further and says that God was faithful in sending them. God was acting in the best interests of David and knew what he needed. God is as faithful to His own in chastening as He is in preserving them. God is no unfaithful and indulgent Eli. He will not allow His children to sin without correction. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: But he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Prov. 13:24).

We ought to praise God for His faithfulness in using the rod to bring us back to Himself and into the path of obedience. The saints have the wayward nature of a sheep and

are prone to go astray. God is a faithful Shepherd who knows how to use the rod to bring us back. Hear David again: "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy word" (Ps. 119:67). And the doctrine is the same whether in the Old Testament or the New. In Heb. 12:11, we read, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." This is indeed a great truth!

Oh, how much do we, His blood-bought people, need to be more faithful to Him who never suffers His faithfulness to fail toward us! This is what He requires of us as stewards of His goods. It will not matter much when we come to die whether we have had much of this world's goods and honour or not, but it will matter much whether or not we have been faithful to our Redeemer. May the faithfulness of God become a spring in us from which shall flow waters of faithful service to Him!