

“GOD IS FAITHFUL”

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Both O.T. and N.T. affirm that “God is faithful.” Both repeatedly attest to his faithfulness.
2. When believed wholeheartedly and fully understood in its broad scope, what could be more encouraging to us mortals of whom this cannot always be said, we:
 - a. Who are not always faithful to others.
 - b. Who are not always faithful to ourselves.
 - c. Who are not always faithful to God whom we profess to believe and love and have promised to obey.
3. Thus we introduce our topic “God Is Faithful” and begin our study with the

II. DISCUSSION

A. DEFINITION OF THE TERM FAITHFUL AND EVIDENCE OF THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON GOD’S FAITHFULNESS BY THE REPEATED USE OF THE TERM.

1. O.T.: “Faithful,” Strong (539), “steadfast, sure,” Deut.7:7-9; Isa.49:7.
2. N.T. : “Faithful,” Strong (4103), “trustworthy, sure, true; to be trusted.” Vine, II, 72, “to be trusted, reliable, true.”
3. In the N.T. it is repeatedly said of God: 1Cor.1:9; 10:13; 2Cor.1:18 (KJV, “true,” ASV, “faithful”); 1Th.5:24; Heb.10:23; 11:11; 1Pet.4:19; 1Jno.1:9; Cf. Rom.3:3 (KJV, “faith”; R.V., “faithfulness”)
4. In the N.T. it is repeatedly said of Christ, who is God, our Savior: 2Th.3:3; Heb.2:17; 3:1,2; Rev.1:5; 3:14; 19:11; Cf. 2Cor.1:20.
5. In the N.T. it is repeatedly said of the words of God: 1Tim.1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2Ti.2:11; Tit.1:9; 3:8; rev.21:5; 22:6.

B. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IS DECLARED, ATTESTED AND EXEMPLIFIED IN A VARIETY OF MEANINGFUL WAYS TO US.

1. By the fact that he cannot lie, Heb.6:10-18; Tit.1:2.

- a. Cf. Num.23:19; 1Sam.15:28,29; Ezek.24:14; 2Tim.2:13; Jas.1:17.
- b. God's "faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds," – it is inexhaustible; it faileth not (Psa.36:5); it is made known to all generations, and established in the very heavens (Psa.89:1,2).
- c. He is the unchanging One, ever consistent with himself, ever true to all he has ever planned, intended or spoken.
- d. In all the departments of his working this great principle may be traced.

C. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IS EXAMPLIFIED IN NATURE.

- 1. What we call "the laws of nature" are not mere blind forces, beyond which we cannot see.
 - a. They are simply the modes or methods of the Almighty's working, the impress or mark of distinction of his will upon creation.
- 2. On what does the fixity of these laws rest but just the faithfulness of God as they operate according to the unchange-ness of his will?
 - a. The movements of the heavenly bodies, the succession of the seasons, the production of like effects by like causes, all of which have been uniform since the present course of things began.
- 3. Upon this uniformity all human activity depends.
 - a. The farmer sows his seed with confidence, relying on God's laws of growth governing nature.
 - b. The chemist mixes his materials knowing they will combine according to the laws of chemical affinity or conformity.
 - c. Thus scientists at NASA can plan and launch a satellite or a spacecraft with confidence that it can reach the moon or Mars, and/or perform and accomplish its intended mission.
 - d. The ocean tides ebb and flow according to schedule, as does the sunrise and sunset.

D. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IS EXAMPLIFIED IN HIS MORAL GOVERNMENT OF THE WORLD.

1. Man as the very pinnacle of God's creation is a free-moral agent, but one held accountable before God for his actions in the moral realm.
 - a. He is free under law.
 - b. Eccl.12:13,14; Isa.3:10,11.

E. THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD IS EXAMPLIFIED IN THE SPHERE OF GRACE OR IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

1. God is faithful in regard to his promises, which are "precious and exceeding great," 2Pet.1:4. See Heb.10:23.
 - a. Not one of his promises shall fail of fulfillment.
 - b. Lapse of time between his promise and his fulfillment of the promise has no effect on its fulfillment.
 - (1) Example: His promise to Abram to make of him a great nation, and to land promise made to Abram regarding that great nation, his fleshly seed, Gen.12:3,7; Ac.7:17; Josh.21:43-45; 23:14; 24:13.
 - (2) Example: Gen.3:15; Gen.12:3; Gal.4:4; 3:6-18,22-29; 2Pet.3:1-9,15.
2. God is faithful in regard to the promise to forgive sins:
 - a. For the alien, Mt.1:21-23; Rom.3:19-26; Mt.28:18,19; Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38; 22:16.
 - b. For the penitent, confessing child of God, Ac.8:2-24; 1Jno.1:9.
3. God is faithful in regard to providing ways and means for man to overcome life's inevitable temptations, 1Cor.10:12,13; Cf. 2Th.3:1-3; Jas.1:12,13.
 - a. All men are temptable. God permits man to be tempted; but does not tempt man to sin.
 - b. All men are in tempting circumstances at times.
 - c. Our temptations require great caution – "take heed lest ye" – there is danger of self-confidence and deception.
 - d. Our temptations are resistable and must be resisted by the means and methods God has provided in his word through his grace and mercy.
 - e. Temptation is accompanied by a means of escape.

- f. To be tempted is not to sin; to sin is to yield to the temptation.
- g. Temptation is not compulsion to sin. Since the time of Adam and Eve no man or woman has ever been compelled to commit a single sin.
 - (1) Satan, who is the Tempter, has no power of compulsion; he can be resisted, Jas.4:7; 1Pet.5:8,9.
 - (2) To be “compelled to sin” involves a contradiction in terms; if we are compelled, there can be no sin.
 - (3) In the spiritual realm, we could not be responsible if we were under compulsion.
 - (4) Temptation at its strongest is only inducement.
 - (5) Satan said to Christ, “cast thyself down;” he can say no more to us; he cannot cast us down, or force us to cast ourselves down.
 - (6) Here the responsibility of sin comes in. Every sin that we commit is voluntary. We do it – no one else! Jas.1:12-14.

F. NO DOUBT GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL IN HIS PROMISE TO JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY JESUS CHRIST.

- 1. Jno.5;22-29.
- 2. Ac.17:30,31.
- 3. Rom.2:2-16.
- 4. Rom.14:11,12.
- 5. 2Cor.5:10.
- 6. 2Tim.4:1.
- 7. Heb.9:27,28.
- 8. 2Pet.3:9-12.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. What then does God’s faithfulness mean to us?
(Perhaps we can’t even count the number of things. But in closing here are a few:
 - a. It gives us strong consolation, comfort and assurance. Cf. 2Cor.1:3,4.

- b. Think of all his promises to the penitent, the tempted, the afflicted, the mourner, the weak, the perplexed, the sufferer for faith's sake, the faithful – not one of which he will fail to fulfill on his part – all of these promises are perfectly reliable; of these we have the assurance:
 - (1) Of his faithful word; his perfect faithfulness to his word.
 - (2) Of his infinite intelligence.
 - (3) Of his Almighty power.
 - (4) Of his eternal existence and opportunity to keep his promises.
2. His faithfulness also means he expects us to be faithful to him and his word to us! His promises are made only to the faithful!
3. Will you take him at his word and reap the present as well as the eternal blessings of his faithfulness? 1Th.5:24.