



Biblical Measures of Faithfulness

2Timothy 3:10-11

Please Listen Carefully



- There are some who may consider the content of this lesson to be unkind. It is not my desire to be unkind to you.
- However, as an evangelist and an elder, I understand that it is more important for me to be clear when preaching the word, than it is for me to be liked for having done so.
- The elders here love every one as a member of our family at Trilacoochee; and, because we love all of our family, we want all of our family to be together in heaven.
- Please listen carefully, humbly, and open-mindedly.

2Timothy 3:10-11

- “But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.”

2Timothy 3:10-11

- Paul exhorts Timothy to remain faithful, even in persecution, using his own example which Timothy has observed for years.
- Paul was not boasting but telling Timothy that his life was open to him. Timothy knew Paul's teaching and trials.
- He wanted him to remember his example of faithfulness and continue in it after Paul passed away.
- How could Paul do this? He knew that he was faithful.

2 Timothy 3:10-11

- A faithful example blesses two persons:
 - The observer who can see and imitate faithfulness
 - The one who is faithful is rewarded for his faithful example
- “Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.” (Francis of Assisi)

Jehoram Knew He Was Unfaithful

- 2Kings 3:1-3 - “Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. 2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. 3 Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.”
- 2Kings 3:13 - “Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, ‘What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.’ But the king of Israel said to him, ‘No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.’ 14 And Elisha said, ‘As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you.’”
- 2Kings 9:22-25

Jehoram Knew He Was Unfaithful

- The Lord did not give Jehoram credit for his half service. God also knew that Jehoram was unfaithful.
- Does the spirit of Jehoram live on in professed members of the Lord's church today?
 - Attendance?
 - Offering?
 - Speech?
 - Angry when addressed?

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Spiritual faithfulness is not automatic, but is helped by recognizing and following godly, scriptural examples.
 - 1Cor. 11:1 - "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ"
 - James 5:10 - "My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience."

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Spiritual faithfulness in the past is not an automatic guarantee of faithfulness in the future
 - 1Tim. 1:18-20 - “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Spiritual faithfulness in the future demands a recognition and reproduction of godly, scriptural examples
 - Phil 3:16-18 - “Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Learn how to discern a godly example
 - 2Tim. 3:14 - “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Learn the importance of being exposed to godly examples.
 - Phil. 2:29 - “Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem”
 - 2Thes. 3:7, 9 - “For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you... 9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Learn the vital need to imitate godly examples
 - Heb. 13:7 - “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Spiritual faithfulness depends on godly, scriptural teaching
- Paul put a premium on sound doctrine, a frequent theme in his letters to preachers
 - 1Tim. 1:3-5, 10; 3:3, 15; 4:6, 13, 16; 5:17; 6:1, 3, 20-21
 - 2Tim. 1:13; 2:2, 15; 4:3
 - Titus 1:9; 2:1, 10

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- A godly teacher will use scripture to teach and direct others
 - 2Tim. 3:15 - “From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples



- However, spiritual faithfulness also demands character.
 - “Conduct” or manner of life
 - “Purpose” or rationale for living
 - “Faith” or conviction for life
 - “Patience” or steadiness in life
 - “Love” or God’s nature in our lives
 - “Perseverance” or persistence throughout life

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Spiritual faithfulness often depends on how one reacts to opposition and correction.
- Paul
 - Acts 13:50-51 - “But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Acts 14:5-6, 19-22 - “And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, 6 they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region... 19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Jesus

- 1Peter 2:19-23 - “For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- 1Peter 4:12-14 - "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified."

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Simon under correction
 - Acts 8:22-24 - “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.’ 24 Then Simon answered and said, ‘Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.’”

Paul's Message About Faithful Examples

- Just as important as what one professes is how he lives what he professes
 - “A father teaches his children that the battle is not determined by the enemy that stands around them, but by the God Who stands within them. And that lesson can only be driven home as they watch their father stand around them, while God stands within their father.” (Craig Lounsborough)

Biblical Measures of Faithfulness

- “As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it’s important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can’t serve from your sofa. You can’t have a community of faith on your sofa. You can’t experience the power of a roomful of believers worshiping together on your sofa. Christians aren’t consumers. We are contributors. We do watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray holding the hands of the hurting. We do life together. Yes, the church needs you. And you need the church.” (Steven Massey)

Biblical Measures of Faithfulness

- We profess to be New Testament Christians doing Bible things in Bible ways using Bible names.
- When the inspired apostle Paul taught the Corinthians about the right way to eat the Lord's Supper, he said "When you come together" six times.
- Once would have been enough for us to know that we must assemble in order to engage in scriptural worship.

Biblical Measures of Faithfulness

- I know that some will raise the point that the online streaming of services helps the sick and those who are taking care of shut-ins.
- I agree and am delighted to continue this practice for their sake.
- However, it is inconsistent for one to say that they are too ill to attend; and then, in social media, post pictures of themselves out of town visiting relatives, selfies at state parks or ball games, and dinners with friends at local restaurants.
- Such persons know that they are unfaithful.

Biblical Measures of Faithfulness

- 1John 1:5-9 - “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”