

## Being Faithful

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some Bible Characters who were faithful and what it means to us today.
2. The word "Faithful" is used many times in the Bible.
  - a. Eph. 1:1. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:"
  - b. Col. 1:2. "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
3. Definition of the word Faithful
  - a. From a word that means = trustworthy; trustful: believe, faithful, sure, true
  - b. The verb form means = to convince, assure, believe, have confidence, trust
4. Bible characters who were faithful teach us some lessons about being faithful:

### Discussion

#### I. MOSES WAS FAITHFUL

- A. Heb. 3:5 "And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;"
  1. Moses was faithful in his service in the house of God
  2. Numbers 12:7 "My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house."
- B. Moses lived 120 years - 3 divisions of 40 years
  1. The first 40 years were spent in Egypt -
    - a. Pharaoh's daughter had taken him for her own son
    - b. He was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and works.
    - c. But he killed an Egyptian

2. The next 40 years were spent in Midian
    - a. He found a wife
    - b. They had 2 sons
    - c. An angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Sinai
  3. The last 40 years he led Israel out of Egypt
    - a. He brought them out of bondage in the land of Egypt
    - b. They wandered in the wilderness for 40 years
    - c. At the waters of Meribah Moses sinned and for this was not allowed to enter the promised land.
    - d. But Moses continued faithful after his mistake and is remembered for his faithfulness.
- C. Heb. 11:24-29 - Moses did these things by Faith - he was faithful in what he accomplished for God.

## **II. ABRAHAM WAS FAITHFUL**

- A. Gal. 3:8-9 "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."
- B. Abraham is known as the founder of the Hebrew race and the father of the faithful. His life can be divided into two divisions:
  1. The wanderings -
  2. and The settled life at Hebron.

- C. The wanderings
1. God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees.
  2. He left his home to follow God's directions.
  3. Heb. 11:8-10
- D. God made a covenant with Abraham and from him came the Messiah.
1. Gen. 12:1-7 - "...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
  2. Heb. 11:17-19 By Faith Abraham offered up Isaac
  3. Abraham was a great man of faith who obeyed God.
- E. Rom. 4:12 "And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised."
- F. Gal. 3:7 "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."

### **III. PAUL WAS FAITHFUL**

- A. 1 Tim. 1:12 - "...he counted me faithful,..." "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;"
1. Paul was born at Tarsus in Cilicia - Acts 9:11 21:39 22:3
  2. His father was a Pharisee - Acts 23:6
  3. He was a Roman citizen by birth - Acts 22:28 "And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born."
  4. He studied under a well known teacher called Gamaliel - Acts 22:3 - 5:34

B. His life can be described by three P's:

1. Persecutor - he is first introduced in the book of Acts a persecutor of Christians.
2. Preacher - He was converted and became a Preacher for Jesus Christ. He went on three missionary journeys and was arrested in Jerusalem.
3. Prisoner - He is Paul the prisoner in Jerusalem, Caesarea, and finally in Rome.

C. Near the end of his life he wrote: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim. 4:7

#### **IV. TIMOTHY WAS FAITHFUL**

A. 1 Cor. 4:17 "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church."

1. Faithful in the Lord
2. Faithful as a Christian

B. Phil. 2:19-22 "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel."

1. Paul was writing of the younger man Timothy
2. I have no man likeminded - He seeks the things which are Jesus Christ's.
3. He has served with me in the gospel.

C. Timothy was a faithful young man

## V. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN ABOUT BEING FAITHFUL

A. Must be FAITHFUL in all our house like Moses

1. All of our family members need to be faithful to God.
2. Josh. 24:15 As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

B. We must be FAITHFUL even to the point of death

1. Rev. 2:10b "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
2. NIV = "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."
3. Must be willing to die for our faith
4. Acts 21:13 "Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
5. Paul kept the faith until the end - 2 Tim. 4:7

C. FAITHFUL men can teach others

1. 2 Tim. 2:2 "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."
2. Faithful men - men who are living by their faith
  - a. There are many believers in Jesus who are not faithful
  - b. They believe in Jesus and His word but do not abide by it
  - c. The faithful men are doers of the word
3. Can successfully teach others

## CONCLUSION

1. God expects his children to be Faithful followers of Him
2. Obey the truth = become a Christian
3. Then live a Christian life:
  - a. Worship God
  - b. Live a life of integrity: honest, clean, pure = Holy Living
  - c. Spread the word to Others
4. As we follow God we learn that He is Faithful and he teaches us to be like Him.
  - a. Deut. 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;"
  - b. 1 Pet. 4:19 "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."
  - c. 1 Cor. 1:9 "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."
  - d. 1 Cor. 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
  - e. Eph. 1:1. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:"