

Hebrews 3.2

Faithfulness in All Things

Last week we ended by considering that we are Holy Brethren, united, holy, partakers of His heavenly calling. This morning I want to spend more time with you thinking about what it means to be faithful. We really need to press this home to our hearts, because HIS faithfulness is the reason that we are His, and our faithfulness is the evidence that we are!

I. Faithfulness is to God

Jesus knew it was God who appointed Him.

a. Answered to a higher calling

- i. His will was not about what was best for Him at the moment
- ii. It was not about what seemed comfortable
- iii. It was not about what others around Him wanted

- iv. It was not dependent upon things being easy, or simple, or safe...
- b. Because He did not come to do what He wanted, but rather what God intended
 - i. He was always clear about His priorities. So He rejected opportunities to avoid the cross

Matthew 4.1-11

- ii. Notice that He also rejected these ways later
 - a. Tried to make Him king, He left

John 6:14 – 15

- b. Wanted food for the belly, not for the soul, He refused

John 6:26-27

- c. Wanted to see a great sign so that they would follow and worship Him falsely (without understanding Who He was and why He came -)

Matthew 12.38 - 41

- d. NOTE that it is always false worship to not have the real Christ in view... to seek Him for false reasons, or with false understanding is NOT worship that honors God, nor that He will worship. When a supposed "gospel" is proclaimed which is focused only on making this life happy, wealthy, healthy, successful, etc. It is a false gospel, even it is dressed up in religious words and true sounding ideas, because it loses sight of who Christ is, and what He really came to do!
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- iii. Did not swerve from that higher set of obligations even unto death. He went silently to the cross, never defending Himself, although He could...

a. Did not call down legions of angels

Matthew 26.51

b. Did not defend Himself before the Sanhedrin

Matthew 26.62 - 64

c. Did not defend Himself before Herod

Luke 23.8 – 10

d. Did not defend Himself before Pilate

John 18.28-38

- i. Accusations imply guilt in the mind of the world
- ii. He offered no resistance
- iii. Actually sought to reason truth with Pilate, not for His own sake, but for Pilate's! He never stopped

seeking to save... never forgot who He was or what He was about!

II. Faithfulness IS Learning

a. We must learn the TRUTH.

b. Jesus is the final revelation of God and thus, EVERYTHING Jesus said and did are to be for us objects of obedience. In what we believe about God and in In what we believe about Jesus

We don't get to make it up

1. We don't get to decide what is true in Scripture
2. We don't get to pick and choose
3. We don't get to add to
4. We don't get to take from

c. FURTHER, everything His apostles teach us about Him is to be viewed as authoritative and ambassadorial - ie: comes directly from Him

and should thus be heard as if Christ were speaking to us!

2 Tim 3.16-17

2Peter 2.19-21

John 14.25-26

John 16.12-15

III. FAITHFUL LEARNING MUST OBEY

The goal of all true Biblical learning is obedience. Without obedience it can be rightly said that we are not really learning!

2 Tim 3.1-7

- a. There was no time when Christ did not obey
- b. In the same way, we too are called to obey in all things the God who IS our creator
- c. We must be faithful in how we obey, In how we **live out** the things we have been taught - nothing is revealed to us as an abstract

concept. Nothing is simply academic... the Word preached to us ought to dwell in us.

- i. everything God tells us is to be intensely practical and completely targeted in our lives. It will defend us from sin.

James 4.17

- ii. It will bring us joy

John 13.17

- iii. To fail to obey will be our ruin, knowing things about Jesus without knowing Jesus is a ticket to hell.

Matthew 7.21-23

- d. It does us as much good as buying all of the medicines that can cure our ills, and never taking them!

- e. Simple collection of knowledge, "the more you hear, the more you want" the hunger for more knowing is not by itself reason to be assured of your salvation.
 - i. This hunger is actually a greed, it is just an intellectual form of consumerism. To obtain to simply amass more and more? It is covetousness, it is idolatry!

Colossians 3.5

- ii. The manna was only good for nourishment THAT day - it had to be consumed and used by the body, to simply gather more and keep it was not allowed and it turned to ruin, rot and worms! So too is spiritual knowledge that we do not obey.
- f. Our confession is a miserable and worthless thing when we
 - i. hear preaching without application,
 - ii. or hear truth without practical obedience

g. Our confession has power when our lives reflect its truth

Ephesians 4.17-24