

Faithful Christian Service

2 Peter 1:3-11

INTRODUCTION:

Read **2 Peter 1:3-11** (CSB)

When Pompeii was destroyed on August 24, 79 A.D. by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, there were many people buried in the ruins. Some were found in cellars, as if they had gone there for security. Some were found in the upper rooms of buildings.

But where was the Roman sentinel found? standing at the city gate where he had been placed by the captain, with his hands still grasping his weapon. There, while the earth shook beneath him—there, while the floods of ashes and cinders covered him—he had stood at his post. And there, after a thousand years, was this faithful man still to be found.

FAITHFULNESS IS HIGHLY PRIZED IN GOD'S EYES

- **Matthew 25:21** "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'"
- **1 Corinthians 4:2** tells us that "it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."
- **Galatians 5:22,23** – "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

DO YOU APPLY THE SAME STANDARDS OF FAITHFULNESS TO YOUR CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES THAT YOU EXPECT FROM OTHER AREAS OF YOUR LIFE?

- If your car starts once every three tries, is it reliable?
- If your paperboy skips delivery every Monday and Thursday, is he trustworthy?
- If you don't go to work once or twice a month, are you a loyal employee?
- If your refrigerator stops working for a day or two every now and then, do you say, "Oh, well, it works most of the time"?
- If your water heater provides an icy-cold shower every now and then, is it dependable?
- If you miss a couple of loan payments every year, does the bank say, "Ten out of twelve isn't bad"?
- If you fail to worship God one or two Sundays a month, would you expect to be called a faithful Christian?

We expect faithfulness and reliability from things and other people. Does not God expect the same from us? The problem is that in our religious activities we see ourselves as volunteers rather than as duty bound. For a volunteer, almost anything seems acceptable. For a bondservant who is duty bound, faithfulness is expected.

- **1 Timothy 1:12** - "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service."
- **Colossians 4:17** – "And say to Archippus, 'Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.'"
- **2 Timothy 2:2** – "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." Entrust to whom? . . . "To faithful men." They will do the right thing with it.

The story is told of an eleventh-century German king, King Henry III, who, having grown tired of court life and the pressures of being a monarch, applied to a monastery to be accepted for a life of contemplation. The religious superior of the monastery, Prior Richard, is reported to have said, "Your Majesty, do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard because you have been a king.

Henry replied, "I understand. The rest of my life I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you."

"Then I will tell you what to do," said Prior Richard. "Go back to your throne and serve faithfully in the place where God has placed you."

When King Henry III died, a statement was written: "**The King learned to rule by being obedient.**" Like King Henry, we too often tire of our role and responsibility. Like King Henry, we too need to be

reminded that God has placed each of us in a particular place to be faithful there. Be it as a plumber, accountant, mother, father, or whatever, God expects us to be faithful where he has placed us.

In what does God wish each of us to be faithful?

1. **Faithful in attendance.** **Hebrews 10:25** – “Not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”
2. **Faithful in Bible Study.** **2 Timothy 2:15** – “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.”
3. **Faithful in prayer.** **1 Thessalonians 5:17** – “Pray without ceasing.”
4. **Faithful in our moral lives.** **2 Timothy 2:19-22** – “Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, having this inscription: **The Lord knows those who are His**, and Everyone who names the name of the Lord must turn away from unrighteousness.
²⁰ Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver bowls, but also those of wood and earthenware, some for special use, some for ordinary. ²¹ **So if anyone purifies himself from these things**, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”
5. **Faithful in serving others.** **James 2:14-18** – “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith,

but does not have works? Can his faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith from my works.

6. **Faithful in sharing the gospel.** **Matthew 28:19-20** – "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." It has been reported that **3** billion souls will die without hearing the Gospel. **330** million deities receive the rituals and sacrifices from those who are ignorant of a loving God. **821** million Muslims bow in prayer toward Mecca **5** times a day. Millions of Americans no longer claim any religious affiliation, but live from day to day without any commitment to the saving of their souls. Upon hearing someone teaching the Bible, one man in Africa said, "That must not be true, or someone would have been here long ago to tell us about it."

A Persian legend tells us that a certain king needed a faithful servant and had to choose between two candidates for the office. He took both at set wages and told them to fill a basket with water from a nearby well,

saying that he would come in the evening to inspect their work.

After dumping one or two buckets of water into the basket, one of the men said, "What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we pour the water in, it runs out the sides."

The other answered, "But we have our wages, haven't we? The use is the master's business, not ours."

"I'm not going to do such fool's work," replied the complainer.

Throwing down his bucket, he went away.

The other man continued until he had drained the well. Looking down into it, he saw something shining at the bottom that proved to be a diamond ring. "Now I see the use of pouring water into the basket!" he exclaimed. "If the bucket had brought up the ring before the well was dry, it would have been found in the basket. Our work was not useless."

When God's blessing does not fully coincide with your expectations, remember to wait until the well is dry. There may be something precious at the bottom. **Only faithfulness will provide that which all Christians seek at the end of life's road.**

Will God find you faithful?

God's Plan for Man's Salvation