

The Benefits Of Being A Faithful Christian

By Mike Bonner

Being children of God by faith in Christ Jesus is amazing to say the least. So many today, because of a lack of knowledge, have left the clear language of the Bible. Denominational jargon has not only infiltrated, but has overtaken the people of God in many locations. No longer is there a pure language among many in the church (Zeph. 3:9). Many have adopted the language of Ashdod, as the Israelites did when they left the Lord (Neh. 13:24). Friends, there are great benefits to being a faithful Christian.

The Christian has the benefit of being likeminded with God through His divine will. The Bible calls this the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5). This benefit comes only through abiding by the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25). Paul would command the brethren in Philippi to walk according to the same rule (Phil. 3:16). The word rule is “*kanon*” in the Greek, which literally means “standard or reed.” When we fail to think straight about God and the Bible, it is almost impossible to obtain unity and be of the same mind and same judgment (1 Cor. 1:10). Our views of the Bible and the message it contains should foster the like precious faith through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:1).

The Christian has the benefit of praying to God continually through Jesus Christ (1 Pt. 2:5). Everyone cannot approach God in prayer, even in the church. Having the ability to approach God and cast our cares upon Him should

overwhelm us with joy unspeakable (1 Pt. 5:7). To approach Him as Abba Father should cause us to see the distinction between the sinner and the saint according to Galatians 3:26–4:7. Only those who have been baptized into Christ and are heirs according to the promise (remember Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3) are privileged to go to God in prayer and be responded too.

Unfortunately, some among the church believe the Father hears everyone, and this is false. Do we realize that those who are living in rebellion are not in fellowship with God and therefore are not heard by God? Peter stated, “for the eyes of the LORD are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the LORD is against them that do evil” (1 Pet. 3:12). God is not hearing the unrighteous, in or out of the church. Peter also addressed the husbands and their conduct towards their wives, notice, “likewise you husbands...that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Pet. 3:7). James said the prayers of a righteous man avails much and, then talks about a Christian who errs from the truth and needs to be converted back, thus saving his soul from death (5:16-20).

Friends, God is not hearing sinners as the uninspired blind man said in John chapter nine, which is no contradiction at all to the rest of God’s teaching on prayer. Solomon in all his wisdom and understanding said these things concerning the one who is unfaithful to God, “the sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his

delight” also “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination” (Prov. 15:8; 28:9). Yet, the benefit of being a Christian is that God hears and responds to us when we are obedient to His will. John said, “and this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 Jn 5:14). Friends, we have a great benefit in Christ (who is the way) to be able to approach God (Jn 14:6). No wonder we can go to God in boldness as Christians to the throne of grace and find mercy and grace in time of need (Heb. 4:16). This is only because we have had our conscience cleansed from dead works to serve (spiritual worship) God (Heb. 9:14).

As Christians, we have the benefit of being in fellowship with one another on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). John would call this day the Lord’s Day (Rev. 1:10). We have the pleasure of extending that fellowship throughout the week on Wednesday night and other times. Our fellowship again is with those of a like precious faith, not with those who teach another

gospel (Gal. 1:6ff). As the people of God we have the responsibility to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but to expose them (Eph. 5:11). Unfortunately, many preachers and elders are in fellowship with denominationalism, even to the point where they attempt to justify their relevancy as a religion or association with the body of Christ. This is false and this type of thinking must be avoided.

Brethren, as we come to a close, we have the benefit of **knowing** we have remission of sins right now. When we were baptized, God gave us life through His Son (Acts 2:38-47). We have the hope of heaven and a new body (Romans 8:23-25; Rev. 2:10). We have the confidence of seeing the face of God and freedom from the horrors of evil throughout eternity (Rev. 22:3-15). These are the benefits of being a faithful Christian.

Mike Bonner is the preacher and one of the elders of the 9th and Main Church of Christ, San Angelo, TX.

Care to Suffer?

By Glen Elliott

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Mt. 16:24). Jesus did not hide from His would-be disciples the fact that following Him would lead to persecution. If Jesus was crucified, it should not come as a shock to learn that His disciples will also be mistreated (2 Tim. 3:12). However, when such suffering comes as a result of living for God, we can expect that we will receive also the blessing and approval of the Lord.

Through the years, many have misunderstood the principle of suffering for the sake of righteousness. Some have reasoned that self-imposed hardship is somehow beneficial to the soul. In fact, one man who lived in the fourth century went about wearing such heavy chains that he had to crawl wherever he went. For more than forty years, another man deprived himself of lying down to go to sleep. We read of still another man who lived in a hollow tree trunk for 11 years. Pardon the pun, but he was barking up the wrong tree!

Jesus did teach blessing in persecution. However, the blessing extended is for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness (Mt. 5:10).

In and of itself, suffering is neither good nor bad. But if we look to God for deliverance and place our trust in Him, suffering brings about great results. James says, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance and let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (Jas. 1:2-4).

There is a difference between suffering for what is right and suffering for our own foolishness. If we get slapped in the face for being obnoxious and abusive to others, we can hardly call it suffering for the sake of righteousness. In our efforts to teach others about the Savior, we must be bold, but gentle. Paul reminds us to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). Peter says, “Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name” (1 Pet. 4:15-16). You can tell a lot about a person by observing that for which he or she is willing to suffer. Let ours always be a suffering for the sake of righteousness so that we might also entertain the hope of everlasting life.

Upcoming Events

Today through October 20 Midtown is hosting our Fall Gospel meeting with Mike Bonner. Please make plans to attend and bring a friend. Flyers are in the foyer. There will be a potluck luncheon TODAY after the morning worship and we will have a 1 pm service in lieu of the 5pm.

Thurs. Oct. 21—Teens Takeaway Thursday at 6:30pm at the Scherffius home.

Friday, Oct. 22—Family Fellowship night @ 6:30pm at the building.

Sun. Oct. 24- Lupe and Ronnie would like to meet with all the ladies who are/want to participate in our "Food Committee" program. The meeting will be at 4pm in the fellowship hall.

Mon. Oct. 25—Teens Bible Basics at 6:30pm at the building.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Rieke Bass’ co-worker Jeanie Heller, who’s husband passed away from COVID. Rieke Bass’ son Tim who has medical issues, and her brother in law Roy Smith who had a medical procedure done.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Mike McVey, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Sandy Malone.

Service Roster

Week of October 17, 2021

Sunday Morning

Announcements..... Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading..... Isaac Jobes
Song Leader Ken Dorries

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobes
Closing Prayer..... Isaac Jobes

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Jesse Moser
Cup..... Leon Morales
Offering..... Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Announcements..... Bryant Siegel
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Jesse Moser & Leon Morales

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Gospel Meeting
Song Leader Isaac Jobes
Devotional Ron White

Other

Usher..... Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Bass Family

Congregational News

Birthdays

Mickey DeDear Oct. 19
Debra Sanchez Oct. 19
Corinne Flonnory Oct. 20
Pam Stryker Oct. 22

Anniversaries

Ronnie & Athena Scherffius Oct.21

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

*“Did not he that made me in the womb make
him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?”
Job 31:15*

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of October 10, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....58
A.M. Worship.....80
P.M. Worship.....53
Wednesday Bible Class.....47

Offering week of October 10, 2021.....\$ 2,615

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*



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