

Sermon Series: Pursuing Godliness

Sermon Title: A Godly Person is a Faithful Person

August 18, 2019

Today's Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1–2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (ESV)

Introduction: The story of Charles Simeon and/or the difficulty employers are having today finding dependable employees.

Main point: A godly person is one who is becoming so aware of God's eternal faithfulness and its importance that he aspires to live his life with greater degrees of loyalty, dependability, trustworthiness, and honesty.

1. No Church or denomination can survive the coming persecutions and cultural drift unless faithful men continue being loyal and true to the truths of the Word of God.
 - The facts are undeniable. Denominations that have chosen to endorse same-sex marriage, and homosexual pastors, and hold lenient views of pre-marital sex, and promote multiple roads to heaven, and focus on social justice issues are all declining in membership much more rapidly than fundamental orthodox churches. These include Presbyterian Church USA, ELCA, United Methodists, and American Baptists.
 - The seminary professors and presidents of these "mainline denominations" have failed to be faithful to the Word of God as it is written. And so their students have entered into churches and denominational offices with the intent of promoting the culture's view of right and wrong compared to what the Bible explicitly says is true.
 - The danger is unfathomable. Millions of parishoners and their children are not hearing of the one and only way to heaven which is through faith in Christ alone.
 - This is what Paul instructed Timothy to pass the gospel message along to "faithful" men. If I were president of Bethel Seminary or University the first question in my interview would be to see if that candidate had been faithful in his teaching to the Bible as God's inerrant and reliable word.
2. The church needs more men like Daniel if it hopes to survive (and God will make sure it does by raising up godly faithful men). **Daniel 6:4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. (ESV)**
 - It was Daniel's faithful character that earned him his promotion as overseer over the entire kingdom. Even ungodly kings can see value in a God-fearing man. Not

all honesty gets recognized, but partial honesty and integrity has a greater chance of being noticed.

- Daniel never got caught in any lie. Not even a tiny one. Lying steals our reputation. Even white lies that are said to avoid hurting someone's feelings. People know. They can tell if you're fudging. If you sell a car without informing the buyer of all its defects, this is dishonest. Exaggeration is another form of lying. Embellishing stories without admitting you are doing it is lying.
 - Why be so rigid even in the small things like white lies? Because we want people to see Christ in us. Americans seem to have a bad reputation overseas and it is well-earned. An attitude of superiority, inconsiderateness is standard behavior as a generalization for Americans. We do not want to give non-believing friends any ammunition to place us in a bad light like Americans have overseas.

- Daniel was also dependable. Most likely never late for an appointment. Never handed in a task late. Probably stayed up late many nights to get it done. The King knew Daniel's reports would be thorough and accurate and unbiased. Daniel could not be bribed to take shortcuts or to polish a review of a subordinate.
 - The Amish are famous for getting jobs done on time and on budget and all without a contract. You would insult them to ask for it in writing because they stake everything on their word.
 - It is extremely frustrating to rely on an undependable person. To me it is the height of selfishness when a person fails to get a job done on time when promised. If you have to wait for them to finish what they are to do before you can complete your task to help someone you want to help, then it hurts the one you are trying to help as well.
 - Dependability matters to God. **Psalm 15:1 O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? (ESV) Psalm 15:4c "who swears to his own hurt and does not change; (ESV)**

- Daniel was loyal. The king could count on Daniel to never betray him or slander him privately. He knew Daniel would always have his back, despite the costs.
 - Bud Lynch and his naps. Bob Tucker and his timid personality. If I had betrayed them and spoke of those faults behind their back I would have been disloyal. Yet how often do we do that without thinking.
 - Many have slandered Cornerstone Church for the stands we have taken or our theology. We and I have been called many things in this community and it gets back to us. The folks who are doing that or have

done it in the past are not your friends or mine. Friends don't do that. If there is a need to confront, they do it to your face, not behind your back.

3. Jesus alone is faithful and true. **Revelation 19:11** Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. (ESV) **Revelation 3:14** "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. (ESV)
 - If we can't count on Jesus' trustworthiness then we can't count on anything in this world. What other source of truth is reliable. **2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (ESV)
 - **2 Peter 1:19–21** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Application

Our unfaithfulness affects more than just our own salvation. It affects everyone who looks up to us.

- John Cooper – lead singer in the band Skillet posted his thoughts about the current defections among Christian celebrities. "We are in a dangerous place when the church is looking to 20 year old worship singers as our source of truth". "We now have a church culture that learns who God is from singing modern praise songs rather than from the teachings of the Word."
- Over the past few weeks the Christian community has been rocked by revelations that Joshua Harris, the author of "I Kissed Dating Goodbye," had renounced his faith. And most recently, Hillsong's Marty Sampson announced his faith in Christ was on "incredibly shaky ground."
- Franklin Graham : "(God) warns churches that turn their back on him and these young men who have renounced their faith have made it so public," he said. "Why did they make it so public? I think they just want publicity. Otherwise, why didn't they just leave their faith and just be quiet about it?"
- Here's what Jesus says: **Matthew 18:6** but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. (ESV)

