**Be Faithful Until Death by Gary Colley**

 **Spiritual Sword pages 41-44**

**Being Faithful is a quality that does not just come in our spiritual life but also comes in every aspect of our lives such as our married life, to our country, to our friends, to our family, etc.**

**Being faithful is a quality that we need to teach our children. We can certainly look at our world today and see that this is not always the case.**

**Ephesians 6:1-4**

**If our children don’t learn this early in life then they will learn other lessons. Solomon writes that “Good understanding giveth favor: but the way of the transgressors is hard. Proverbs 13:15**

**As we send our children to college their faith will be contested by some of their atheistic teachers who deny God’s existence.**

**Thus our scripture reference for this class is Revelation 2:10. “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”**

**The flipside to this is that if we are not faithful then we will not have that home in Heaven.**

**Thus faithfulness must be shown in our lives today; to our family, our homes, our public businesses, our neighbors and everything else in our life.**

**The seventh blessing of the “fruits of the Spirit” is faith or faithfulness, Galatians 5:22.**

**The fruits of the Spirit cannot be a part of our lives unless we obey the Gospel as delivered by the Holy Spirit.**

**John 16:13; Romans 8:1-2, 14-17; 6:17; 1: 16-17**

**Be Thou Faithful:**

**The word faithful is used 51 times in the American Standard Bible.**

**It is important or it wouldn’t be mentioned so many times.**

**Definitions of faithful:**

**One that is constant, reliable, stedfast, trustworthy, loyal, predictable, and dependable.**

**It describes one who can be trusted and confided in, while being directed by the teaching of the Holy Spirit.**

**The words that define faithfulness should describe each of our lives.**

**If it does not we must recognize the impending danger in our lives.**

**God is Faithful:**

**I Corinthians 1:9; 10:13 and Hebrews 10:23**

**We can be assured that God is faithful in the things that we can see. We can be assured that God is faithful in the things that we cannot see such as forgiveness of sins to one who obeys the Gospel.**

**When one complies with the requirements of God to become a Christian, we do not guess as to whether or not God forgives our sins.**

**Christ is Faithful:**

**Jesus faithfully and full did the work on earth which God sent him to do.**

**Paul wrote to the Thessalonians “ Faithful is he that calleth you,” I Thess 5: 24 Again he said the “The Lord is Faithful,” II Thess 3:3**

**Hebrews 2:17 states that—Jesus is a “merciful and faithful high-priest.”**

**Jesus gives us the blessed assurance that all of his promises will be kept.**

**Jesus can be trusted with the highest confidence (Hebrews 7:25)**

**We should walk in his footsteps ( I Peter 2:21-25)**

**The Word of God is Faithful:**

**I Timothy 1:15—Paul commended Timothy to realize that the Holy Spirit was faithful in revealing the Truth to him.**

**II Timothy 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.”**

**Paul also condemned any teacher who would preach anything different from what the apostles preached. ( Galatians 1:8-9)**

**Christians Are to be Faithful:**

**The child of God is commanded to be humble and faithful or consistent and true.**

**“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matt: 18:4**

**Being in the family of God, or the church of Christ means that we are his heirs. (Romans 8: 16-17)**

**When we say one is faithful, what do we mean?**

**When one attends services one time every four weeks does that make them a one-fourth faithful.**

**Not only in attendance are we to be faithful, we are to be pure in heart, lips, and lives. ( II Peter 3:18; Matthew 15:8-9)**

**It is usually true that when one goes astray they are not one who has been faithfully attending worship.**

**However one may be faithful in attendance but may still be a gambler, carouser, dishonest, a drinker, stingy, or morally corrupt person. This person cannot be said to be loyal or faithful to the Lord.**

**Faithfulness is a great part of “holding fast the confession of our hope.” Hebrews 10:23-25**

**“Unto” Not Merely Until:**

**Revelation 2:10**

**This passage is a part of a letter sent to the church at Smyrna by the Lord.**

**The warning concerned those things that we could suffer;**

**The Devil shall cast some into prison that ye may be tried,**

**You shall have tribulations for ten days**

**They knew from the message from the Lord that they were about to undergo trials for a brief period of time that was to be administered by the Devil.**

**This was to be part of their faithfulness.**

**This passage says unto death. True we are to be faithful until death, but this passage teaches that we are to be faithful even in the face of death.**

**If the challenge was given to denounce Christ or die, we must remain faithful and not deny the Lord.**

**Remember if we deny Christ or our Lord, then he will deny us in the day of judgment. (Matthew 10:32-33)**

**CONCLUSION:**

**What about our faith?**

**What is my influence?**

**Am I a good example to follow?**

**Am I an encourager to those outside of Christ?**

**What does my impact have on young children and young Christians?**

**What is my example to my children?**

**If we expect Elders, Deacons, and Preachers to follow these guidelines of faithfulness, should we not expect ourselves to follow the same guidelines?**

**If those mentioned above were not faithful would we not say they were not qualified for the job?**

**If we are not faithful as Christians, does that not qualify us as Christians?**