



From Where I Sit . . .

“God Requires Faithfulness”

Some people have perceived of a “no-strings attached” version of Christianity. This concept is not Biblical and it never has been Biblical. Our freedom as a nation has especially contributed to a sense of independence that seems to foster an attitude of “You can’t tell me what to do.” “Don’t crowd my space.” “Give me my liberty.”

Along with this sense of *independence* comes less *dependence* on a supreme God in whom we live and move and have our being. The prevailing reaction to God is, “He’s nice to have around for emergencies, but when everything’s all-right, I don’t really need to be bothered with all the religious red-tape.”

If you doubt that this is true, then consider the thousands, perhaps millions of people that turn very religious when they have an illness, death in the family, financial crisis, or some other major calamity, but whom we fail to see again in churches for months or years after the crisis has settled down. Sadly, we must admit that Broad Street is no different from other congregations in that we have such a list of names of individuals just like that. And no matter how hard we strive to enlist their faithfulness, with the few successes, others step into their place and the list never gets any smaller.

Somehow we have failed to convince people that the most important thing in life is to do the will of God. *“The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments.”* We’ve tried sermons on God’s love for us— joy, peace, the beauties of heaven, and all sorts of “positive” messages about hope in Christ Jesus, but still we have lengthy lists of individuals who just simply are not faithful to the Lord.

I make that statement at risk of being accused of being judgmental. One brother who had not assembled with the saints in nearly 2 years said we had no right to say he was unfaithful. Another who hadn’t attended in 6 months said, “Even though I haven’t been attending, I haven’t been unfaithful to my Lord. I pray to Him every day.” This sounds a lot like the “Jesus, Yes—the church, No” philosophy.

In spite of our spirit of freedom, the truth still remains that God Requires Faithfulness In Our Worship To Him. **(1 Cor 4:2 KJV)** *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”* In spite of God’s love for us as seen in Christ’s death on the cross; in spite of the fact that *“. . .the Father seeketh such to worship Him” (John 4:23-24)*; In spite of the fact that fellowship is a natural expression of brotherhood in a family; In spite of the fact that saints are required (commanded) to assemble, it’s been estimated that 40 % of our brotherhood attends only 1 service each week.

The bottom line is that people who **wilfully forsake** this important aspect of Christian stewardship are in direct disobedience to the will of God -- even if they insist on their many good works serving as proof they are still in the Lord. King Saul found this out when he took upon himself to redefine what was in the best interest of the people. He kept back the choice of the sheep and oxen, plus he spared King Agag. He did what people are doing today. He redefined God’s law to accommodate his own desires.

But note: **(1 Sam 15:22-25 KJV)** *“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.”*

. . . . Terry Broome