

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE FAITHFUL SAYING (Part 1)

SCRIPTURE READING:

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A Faithful Saying refers to a trustworthy, reliable, believing fact upon which we can build our lives on.** It is a doctrinal truth or foundational truth of the Christian faith, specifically that **“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”**
- B. There are four other Faithful Sayings in the Pastoral Epistles:**
- “This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work” (1 Tim 3:1).
 - “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance” (1 Tim 4:9).
 - “It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him” (2 Tim 2:11).
 - “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” (Titus 3:8).
- C. Based on the scripture reading for this lesson, the Apostle Paul gives his own testimony.** It is a declaration of his own experience (1 Tim 1:12-15).
- 1. Christ Jesus placed Paul into the ministry and enabled (strengthened and empowered) him to do the work of a minister (v. 12).**
 - 2. Christ Jesus counted Paul as trustworthy (honest, faithful, dependable) for the ministry and forgave his sins (v. 13a).**
 - a. Blasphemy** – to insult, revile, curse, and derail the name of Christ.
 - b. Persecutor** – to harass, oppress, and inflict suffering upon others, especially for identifying as a Christian.
 - c. Injurious** – wrongful, unjust, hurtful, or damaging to a person, property, reputation or rights.
 - 3. Christ Jesus had mercy on Paul despite his sins.**

Paul attacked Christ and His followers. He did it ignorantly and in unbelief. He did not believe Christ to be the Messiah (v. 13b).

4. Christ Jesus poured out His Grace upon Paul with faith and love (v. 14).

Note: Mercy is the withholding of punishment or penalty we deserve, while Grace is the granting of unmerited favor or gift that we do not deserve. In essence, Mercy is being spared from judgment, and Grace is receiving God's loving kindness and gifts, like salvation and blessings, beyond what could ever be earned or deserved.

In Part 1 this Bible Study, we will focus our meditation on the first three facets of the Faithful Saying. We will cover the remaining two facets of the Faithful Saying in Part II of this Bible Study.

I. THE FAITHFUL SAYING REVEALS THE LOVE OF GOD (v. 14)

"Love which is in Christ Jesus"

A. The love of God is unconditional, sacrificial and foundational to His nature.

This love extends to all mankind, including those who oppose God. This love is demonstrated most powerfully through the sacrificial death of Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of sins.

1. Unconditional Love

The Love of God is not earned or based on human goodness. It is unmerited and undeserved on our part. It is a free gift which is rooted in the character and nature of God.

- "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 6:23).
- "8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph 2:8-9).
- "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (1 John 4:8).

2. Sacrificial Love

God's love for mankind was demonstrated in the sacrifice of His Son, Christ Jesus, on the Cross for our sins. Jesus died a substitutionary death – He died in our place and on our behalf.

- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
- "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).
- "9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:9-10).

3. Foundational Love

Christ Jesus is the only means by which we can have our sins forgiven and heaven is our home.

- “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).
- “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
- “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 2:5).

B. Quotes About The Love of God

1. “God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” – St. Augustine
 2. “Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.” – C.S. Lewis
 3. “Verily, free Grace is All in All! The Grace or love of God, whence cometh our Salvation, is free in All and free to All.” – John Wesley
- “⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) – (Eph 2:4-5).

II. THE FAITHFUL SAYING REVEALS THE GRACE OF GOD (v. 15)

“Christ Jesus came into the world”

A. This phrase indicates the Incarnation of Christ which is a Christian Doctrine.

This doctrine refers to the belief that God became flesh by taking on human form in the person of Christ Jesus. This means that Christ Jesus was both fully God and fully human (man) at the same time.

B. Christ Jesus, the Messiah, came from Heaven to fulfill Old Testament prophecies about the coming Savior.

1. A virgin will give birth and He will be called Immanuel (God with us).

Prophecy:

- “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa 7:14).

Fulfillment by Christ:

- “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matt 1:23).

2. Christ’s ministry will destroy the devil’s work.

Prophecy:

- “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen 3:15).

Fulfillment by Christ:

- “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).

3. Christ is the Great “I AM”

Prophecy:

- “¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you. ¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations” (Exod 3:13-15).

Fulfillment by Christ:

- “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58).

C. Jesus left the Glory of Heaven to dwell among mankind (John 1:14).

- “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Christ Jesus was full of Grace and Truth. He was full of undeserved kindness for others. He was completely honest, upright, and truthful as He never excused, ignored or approved sin. He is completely honest as only God can be.

III. THE FAITHFUL SAYING REVEALS THE NEED OF MAN (v. 15)

“Came into the world to save sinners”

A. The purpose of Christ’s coming is to “Save Sinners.”

Sinners are not free from sin – all persons are sinners and in need of Christ’s saving grace.

B. Christ did not come to save good people because there are none.

- “But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matt 9:13).
- “When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Mark 2:17).

C. Christ did not come to save those who keep the law because there are none.

- “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom 3:10).
- “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23).

D. The Heart of the Gospel

- “³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor 15:3-4).

The Gospel of Christ Jesus tells a person that he is a sinner, that he is lost, that he cannot save himself, and that the only way to heaven is through the substitutionary work of Christ on the Cross.

- **What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus**
- **Christ came into the world to save**
We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus Saves! Jesus Saves!
Spread the tidings all around! Jesus Saves! Jesus Saves!

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- A. Christ Jesus’ primary mission was to save sinners. Therefore we must continue this truth in our evangelistic efforts.**
- B. As you share your personal testimony, remember that all have sinned and in need of Salvation – Paul’s admission of being the “Chief” of Sinners serves as a reminder of the depth of God’s Grace.**

MEMORY VERSE:

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:17).

CONCLUSION:

A. God's Delight (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

A Scottish preacher spoke of evangelism as a fellowship of reconciled, forgiven sinners who don't simply preach but live out their faith. They also offer to others the same reconciliation and forgiveness they have received from God.

The apostle Paul expressed the same conviction: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15). Once a blasphemer and persecutor of Christians, Paul believed that God's mercy was shown to him, the worst of sinners, as an example to other sinners who would later believe on Christ (1 Timothy 1:16).

Whenever we testify that God has forgiven us and provided eternal life through faith in Christ, we're declaring that God is a saving God. Yet, when we observe destructive lifestyles among people, it's easy to write them off. Instead, we should look at them as Christ does. "When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them" (Matthew 9:36).

Jesus said He came not to condemn the world but to save it (John 3:17). Rather than condemning people, we should say, "Who am I to condemn others, when God has forgiven me so generously?" God delights to use forgiven sinners to reach other sinners.- (Joanie Yoder - Our Daily Bread)

Love is giving for the world's needs,
Love is sharing as the Lord leads,
Love is caring when the world cries,
Love is compassion with Christlike eyes. —Brandt

To love sinners is to be like Jesus.

B. ABC's of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



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“.... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).