

Success Is Faithfulness

"Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?" (Prov. 20:6). We can only imagine the frustration and disappointment Solomon must have felt as he experienced the stabbing emotional pain of traitorous rejection. God feels similar rejection when His people turn their back on Him. When Hosea spoke to the sons of Israel, he told them that the Lord had a case against them because "there was no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land" (Hos. 4:1).

Faithfulness is sorely needed in our fickle day of lukewarm devotion. Our success in the sight of God is measured by faithfulness, not by numbers. Numbers are important in as much as numbers represent souls. Yet, success is not about numbers but about faithfulness to the call of God. Was Noah a success? He is listed as one of our "Heroes of Faith" in Hebrews eleven. We would all agree that he was a success in spite of the fact that he was able to influence only his immediate family regarding the matter of the Flood.

Faithfulness is God's standard of success for His servants. Paul writes, "It is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy" (1 Cor. 4:2). When the Lord examines our heart, will He find us faithful? Jesus says, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). Faithfulness arises from the concept of stewardship. "Stewardship implies responsibility, and responsibility demands faithfulness" (Pulpit Commentary). Jesus identifies the faithful steward as the one who is carrying out his responsibility when his Master returns. Loyalty and trustworthiness is measured by acts of service and devotion. Faithfulness is the key to success in the sight of God. When we do God's bidding, He will bless us and count us as faithful servants in His sight. This must be our driving ambition and goal in life (2 Cor. 5:9).

— Glen Elliott — < Greenbrier Church of Christ, Greenbrier, AR >



O for a faith that will not shrink ... - W. H. Bathurst

News Notes

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Aiden Klinger from the WV School of Preaching. Bro Rico is participating in the Florida Lectures and will speak there tomorrow.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Brooke Akers.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Postponed until Thursday, Feb. 5th.

GRIEF FELLOWSHIP: This Saturday, Jan. 24th, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ.

PANTRY: No item needed this week.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **SICK & SHUT-IN:** *Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh: Isaiah Robinson. Covington Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation: Nancy Hadley, 100 Covington Dr., Room 304, East Palestine, OH 44413. At Home: Peggy Linger, Randy Beagle, Schalotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). Serra Manor, Weirton: Jean Haught (Skip's mother). Fox, Chester: Mary Johnson. Elsewhere: Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.*

ALSO REMEMBER THESE WITH HEALTH ISSUES: *Christy Claypool, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. Jackie Brown (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811.*

The Wretched Man's Spiritual Battle

*"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom. 7:19)
"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death" (Rom. 7:24)*

The spiritual battle calls for ...

a Continual Cleansing By The Blood Of CHRIST (James 4:17; 1 John 1:7).

the Body To Be Under Subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27; Romans 12:1).

a Heart That Desires To Please God (Romans 8:6-10; Hebrews 11:6).

a Life Of Maturing (Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Peter 1:3-10).

a Daily Practice Of The Word Of God (Romans 6:17, 18; James 1:21-25).

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4)

- Magnolia Messenger, Church of Christ, Kosciusko, MS -

*The life that counts must toil and fight,
Must hate the wrong and love the right,
Must stand for truth, by day, by night –
This is the life that counts.*

- Anonymous -