

Christmas Advent 2021-2022

Faithfulness by Ps Larry Elliott

We have been glad to discover that Advent is **a season of preparation for and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, but perhaps more importantly a time** to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.

Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."

You and I are to be expectant!

That's why the theme of Advent is: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and while we briefly looked at Be Expectant on New Year's Eve, Today we are looking at FAITHFULNESS!

For us as believers to stay the course for the long haul we will need to be Faithful, but the source of that faithfulness is looking at Christ's faithfulness not our own!

God is Faithful

2 Timothy 2:11-13 NKJV "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

Being Faithful isn't just what God does, it's who He is!

Hebrews 6:13-20 NKJV "For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

The two immutable things:

God's counsel and oath, which never change and alter, and from which he never varies:

1. His Oath to Abraham, which is fulfilled in Christ the Messiah and continues to be fulfilled every time someone gets saved. (There are 14 oaths that God has made all of which have been or are being fulfilled - 1 of them see v20)
Hebrews 7:18-25 NKJV
2. His Word which contains His promises after which He watches over them to perform.
Hebrews 8:6 NKJV

Impossible for God to lie:

In which it was impossible for God to lie; fail or deceive, nor, indeed, in anything else, besides His



counsels, promises, and oaths.

Titus 1:1-3 NKJV “Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;”

I understand we as humans get hung up on the temporal natural things, but our focus should be on Eternal things!

(Why someone never got their healing, why so much pain in the world - the truth that's more a confirmation the Bible is true than not)

Let God's Grace lift your perspective!

Our Being Faithful is not a striving in the flesh, a work we try do; but a response to God's Unfailing Never ending FAITHFULNESS:

Hebrews 6:9-12 NKJV “But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

So in 2022 let's not hold back or drawback, let's trust God and be Faithful as we believe for His Promises in our lives and Church!

How will you judge Him

Hebrews 11:11-12 NKJV “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.”

We always hear about the Faith of Abraham, but his wife, Sarah, had great faith too.

She received divine strength to conceive Isaac, even though by this time she was old and barren!

What made Sarah find faith? The Bible tells us that she “judged Him faithful who had promised” She was conscious of *the Lord's faithfulness*, not her own faithfulness!

When you find yourself wavering in faith, judge Him faithful and rest. He cannot fail you and will do as His Word has promised!

Hebrews 10:22-23 NKJV “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

Today's Thought: The cross of Jesus Christ has freed me to receive and experience God's undeserved, unmerited, and unearned favour —His pure grace that is completely dependent on His goodness and faithfulness.

Christmas
ADVENT
2021

HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE
FAITHFULNESS

