

A COMMITMENT TO FAITHFULNESS

Psalm 101

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. In **1 Sam.13:14**, David is mentioned as a “*man after God's own heart.*” What a high compliment to be paid to a man.
1. David is one of the most well-known of all Bible characters.
 - a) He is included in ranks with **Abraham, who's called the Friend of God.**
 - b) And with servants like **Elijah, The Man who Never died.**
 - c) And in adherence and steadfastness with those like **Enoch, who Walked with God.**
 2. We can readily see the good works of David & how he was blessed. During His reign, Israel was widely recognized by many in the world as **A MOST PROMINENT WORLD POWER** - a nation which was to be reckoned with.
 3. Throughout the Scriptures we are told of David's never-ending commitment to God, his dedication to obeying His will & his desire for others to do as God wanted them to do.
 4. Why was David so blessed?
 - a) Because of his faith - **1 Sam. 17**
 - b) Because of his respect & fear of the Lord...
 - c) And because of his deep & steadfast commitment to faithfulness to the Lord.
- B. In this lesson we want to look at his commitment to God, in order to prudently consider if it is a pattern of resolution that we should also be making in our lives.
1. His was not a shallow decision, but a wholehearted statement of devotion to God.
 2. Many have made statements like David's, but so often, after a period of time, have "lost heart" and forgotten about their promises to the Lord.
- C. So the question we want to pose of ourselves as we go through the lesson is, "**AM I TRULY COMMITTED TO FAITHFULNESS?**"

II. THERE ARE CERTAIN PROMISES ON OUR PART IN THE COVENANT WE MADE WITH THE LORD!

- A. **IT'S LIKE WE'VE GUARANTEED:** “*I will Strive to Behave Wisely, in a God-like fulfilling Way.*”
1. From the very beginning of the passage, David states as his aim that he is going to follow the Lord; that he's going to try to do what's right in the sight of God! **1 Sam.18:14-15-** “*David was prospering in all his ways for the LORD was with him. 15) When Saul saw that he was prospering greatly, he dreaded him.*”
 2. This is an attitude that stands in great contrast to many around us who seem devoted to be selfishly involved in worldly things!
 - a) It sometimes seems that the more immoral a person is the better he's looked upon & regarded by his peers, doesn't it?
 - b) Those **in and of the world** glory in sin, and they promote it, and they try to seduce all around them into the same lifestyle, as they continue to deny that there's a God to be reckoned with, or that SIN is really SERIOUS! **Psa.14:1-2-** “*The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. 2) The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God.*”
 3. David **sought** God. He **meditated** upon His precepts. Indeed He did **walk wisely**. His **aim** was set on doing that which was good.
 4. Where is **OUR LIFE AND SERVICE AIMED?**
 - a) Are we set on **doing as much as possible** for the Lord, or are we content on “*just getting by?*”
 - b) Haphazard & halfhearted service is unsuitable to the Lord, because it's not profitable to Him!

5. **Matt.25:14-30** - The Lord says the **unprofitable servant** is sent to everlasting punishment.
 - a) Because his **GOAL** wasn't on **SERVING** - just on *getting by*, **and this attitude is wrong!**
 - b) The Lord tells us we're going to find what we're looking for (**Mt. 7:7-8**) SO, we should be seeking for God! **Mt. 6:33**

B. Notice the end of v. 2: "Will walk within my House with a Perfect Heart."

1. This was going to be a **WAY OF LIFE** with David. It was not just some show because he wanted everyone to think that's how he acted. He could have very well done this.
2. It's true that a large portion of David's job as king was "ceremonial" – **he was to act righteously** – because he lived in the "city of the Lord" and everyone's eyes were set upon him.
3. But more importantly than just being KING, he wanted to be a good example in all points in his life.
4. Many today seem to be trying to “nurture an image” without really “living the life!”
 - a) Want to APPEAR TO OTHERS that they are doing right, **when they are really not**.
 - b) Jesus said in **Luke 6:43-45** that we are known by our fruits. Need to bear the right fruits!
 - c) May be able to fool man, **but you won't fool God!** **WHERE IS YOUR GOAL?**

C. "I Will Set Nothing Wicked Before My Eyes."

1. David wanted to have nothing to do whatsoever with sin. [He didn't want to be subject to the temptations that are associated with sin.]
2. Contrary to what many try to do today. Seems like we want to get as close to the fire as we can!
3. Especially on issues that it is hard to draw line on, or that are socially acceptable:
 - a) Social drinking, & dancing, & going into inappropriate places.
 - b) We should be running away from sin! Try to get as far away from it as you can. Why?
 - 1) Wages of sin is death. **Rom. 6:23**
 - 2) Sin is lawlessness. **1 John 3:4**
 - 3) Carnal mind creates enmity with God! **Rom. 8:7**
 - 4) What about US? Have WE made that commitment to separate ourself from sin?
 - i) Jesus has called on **US** to make a decision! **WE** have to decide if we're going to follow Him **WITH ALL OF OUR HEART** or not. **Luke 9:57-62**
 - ii) David wanted nothing to do with sin, or with anything that was contrary to the Lord!

D. "I Will Hate the Work of Those Who Fall Away."

1. Notice phrase carefully: Will hate **"THE WORK"** of those who fall away.
 - a) How loudly this speaks out to me! **Doesn't hate the person** - just the **works** of the person.
 - b) He realized the potential in all people to do right in serving God!
2. This should be personally applied by all of us! We must remember this when we're dealing with those **in the world & also with our own brethren**.
3. The Bible exhorts Christians **time & time & time again** to love our brethren in Christ
 - a) **1 John 2:8-11**- *"On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. 9) The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10) The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11) But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes."*
 - b) **Heb. 13:1**- *"Let love of the brethren continue."*
 - c) **1 John 4:7-11; 20-21**- *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 20) "If someone says, "I*

love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21) And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”

4. We must not only be able “to STAND our brethren,” we are to LOVE one another! **Jno.13:34-35.**
5. Another interesting thing found in **v. 3** is the phrase *“it shall not cleave to me..”*
 - a) Many put stock in & sometimes led astray by false or UNWISE teachers, preachers, etc.
 - b) Bro. (**BIGNAME PREACHER**) said this, so **“it must be right.”**
 - c) My parents have believed this way all their lives, so I can’t go wrong if I follow the same!
 - 1) Must be willing to stand up for the truth no matter what, not compromising to anyone, and recognize that “longevity of believing” is not the criteria for determining TRUTH!
 - 2) Jesus said in **Mt.10:34-39-** *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35) “For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36) and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. 37) “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38) “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39) “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”*

E. “I Will Not Know Wickedness.”

1. In **verses 5-8** David shifts emphasis from personal life to that of how he wished to rule the kingdom in which he was in charge.
2. Did not want to have anything to do with wickedness.
 - a) He tried to abstain from evil both in his personal life & his administration.
 - a) How admirable! BOY, don’t we wish some of our present political leaders would try this?
3. Was not going to put up with wickedness by:
 - a) Destroying those who slandered neighbors - **v. 5**
 - b) Not tolerating a proud heart in those who worked with him - not even for a minute! **V. 5**
 - c) Did not play favorites, because morality was important to him.
4. Many folks today have a hard time drawing the line between what is right and what is wrong.
 - a) Have a tolerance for sinful things if it is someone close to us. - family, close friend, etc.
 - b) We’ve heard: “A rose is a rose is a rose!” Remember also: **“A Sin is a Sin is a Sin.”**
5. Not tolerate sin but identify it, rebuke, & turn away from it.
 - a) Rebuke sin by the word of God - **2 Tim.3:16-17; 4:1-2**
 - b) Go to those who are in sin - encourage them out of a spirit of love to do better.
 - 1) We must still show people our spirit of love, and without condoning their error - **2 Thess.3:15-** *“And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”*
 - 2) In they continue in sin - **Gal. 6:1-** *“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”*

F. Rewarded those who were faithful.

1. **v. 6** - eyes were on the faithful of the land. Was going to recognize those who were striving along serving the Lord, those who had made the commitment to the Lord along with him.
 - a) *“He who walks in perfect way...He shall serve me” --v. 6*
 - b) David recognized those who were doing good.
 - c) He **praised** them. He **rewarded** them.
2. We should be doing the same! How often do we recognize one another’s **GOOD** actions?
 - a) MOST are usually quick to point out that which is BAD, or something we disagree with!
 - b) Easy to dwell on the negative, or on someone else's faults.

- c) Some of us will very seldom encourage others for the good job they're doing.
- 3. Example of NT church:
 - a) **Acts 2:42-47** - continued daily with one accord.
 - b) **1 Thess.1:2-10** - became an example to many congregations around.
 - c) **Key to this:** love for one another! They built one another up. They cared for one another. Worked in harmony together for the spreading of the gospel.
 - d) **LOVE IS THE KEY!** A love for the truth means having a love for others.
- 4. Begins by doing just little things!
 - a) **Bro. X - great job teaching class!** -or- *The yard looks great!* , etc..
 - b) SIS. Y - THANKS FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE YOUNG FOLKS.
 - c) Bro-Sis. Gray/ Leni Kosta/ Bro-Sis. Sasse/ Bro/Sis.Mellor/ or many others of you should know of our gratitude for your giving others a ride to church services!
 - d) How often do we thank the Bible class teachers for the hard work they put in; who take the time out of their schedule to **teach that class of OUR CHILDREN?** *HOW MANY TIMES DO WE ASK THE TEACHERS IF THERE'S SOME WAY WE CAN HELP THE KIDS AT HOME?*
- 5. It was very clear that David was going to **recognize & reward** those who were doing good.
 - a) The most successful companies recognize their employees for the good things they do - **why shouldn't we do the same here in the congregation?** Bro.Reagan did this very thing in his "State of the Church" address on Feb.2nd, *but how about all of us getting personally involved?*
 - b) Instead of looking at our fellow brethren with a microscope to find something to criticize in them, we should be approaching them with a spirit of love to COMMEND them for the righteousness they're involved in! This is what causes continued growth & encouragement!

III. CONCLUSION.

- A. We have talked today about how David committed his life to following the teachings of the Lord.
 - 1. We find him to have been rewarded for this both spiritually and physically.
 - 2. What about you? Do you have this commitment to the Lord?
 - 3. If you don't, then you are headed for an eternity away from the presence of the Lord!
- B. Why not make YOUR commitment to the Lord today? **Let YOUR DESIRE be known that YOU HAVE DETERMINED in your OWN mind to be a Christian, a child of God, and that you're going to be faithful and true to the LORD by keeping His word for the rest of your life.**
 - 1. Come forward today by **believing, repenting, confessing & being baptized** for the remission of sins, and make this same commitment to the Lord that David did.
 - 2. The Lord has promised that you will receive blessings, too numerable to mention, for your efforts.
- C. If you are already a Christian, but have failed in your commitment to Him, then come forward NOW and ask Him for forgiveness. The Lord has promised He will forgive you. **Renew your commitment today!**
- D. This could very well be the day you make the most important decision of your life! **Won't you let it be?**