

I. Introduction.

- A. David needs a friend. 18:3
- B. Covenant is a dominant theme in this chapter. 20:8,14-16,42
- C. God's covenant lovingkindness is the basis of our covenant faithfulness in our relationships with each other. Dt. 7:7-9 Ex. 34:6-7

II. David and Jonathan fulfill their covenant commitments. v. 1-42 18:3

- A. David seeks covenant lovingkindness from Jonathan. v. 1-10
 - 1. David is a man on the run. v. 1a Pr. 17:17
 - 2. He doesn't understand why Saul is trying to kill him. v. 1b,32 26:18 29:8
 - 3. Jonathan needs to be persuaded of the danger. v. 2-4
 - 4. David proposes a test which will reveal Saul's motives. v. 5-7
 - 5. David appeals to their covenant as the basis for his request for lovingkindness. v. 8 18:3-4 23:18
 - 6. Jonathan agrees to fulfill his covenant duty. v. 9-10
- B. Jonathan seeks lovingkindness from David. v. 11-17
 - 1. Jonathan also invokes the covenant.
 - a. He pledges to fulfill his covenant duty. v. 12-13a
 - b. He seeks lovingkindness from David for himself and his family. v. 14-15
 - c. He calls God as witness and enforcer. v. 12a,13a,23
 - d. He formally renews (cuts) the covenant. v. 16-17
 - 2. Jonathan foresees a day when David will be king. v. 13b Luke 12:42
 - 3. Jonathan seeks a pledge of lovingkindness from David. v. 14-15 II Sam. 4:11 8:14 II Ki. 10:1ff 11:1 I Ki. 15:27ff 16:8ff Judges 9:5
 - 4. David later fulfills his covenant promise of lovingkindness. II Sam. 9:1,3,7
- C. David and Jonathan arrange a meeting place and a signal. v. 18-23
- D. Jonathan discovers Saul's true intentions and nature. v. 30-34
 - 1. Jonathan covers for David's absence at the feast. v. 24-29 18:1-2
 - 2. Was Jonathan's deceit justifiable?
 - 3. Saul explodes in anger. v. 30-33 14:44
 - 4. Saul continues to fight God's plan. 13:13-14 15:26 Ps. 2:1-3 Pr. 21:27
 - 5. Saul is right about some things.
 - a. Jonathan has chosen David. v. 30,32,34 16:8ff 15:28 Lu. 12:51-52 14:26
 - b. Jonathan's kingdom will never be established. v. 31a 13:13-14 II Sa. 7:16,28
 - 6. Jonathan is angry and grieved over his father's treatment of David. v. 34 Ex. 11:8
 - 7. Sometimes we face the same choice as Jonathan. Luke 12:51-52 14:26 Acts 5:29
 - 8. Sometimes we must speak out. Don't be intimidated by Sauls. Pr. 29:25 31:8-9
- E. Jonathan warns David and sends him away. v. 35-42
 - 1. Jonathan and David keep their appointment. v. 35-40
 - 2. David and Jonathan reaffirm their covenant and depart in peace. v. 41-42

III. Application.

- A. Don't be like Saul who succumbed to the anger of unbelief.
 - 1. Anger is murderously destructive. v. 30-33 Mt. 5:21-22 Pr. 25:28 29:22 11:9 22:24
 - 2. Your anger reveals what is most important to you (idols of the heart). Js. 4:1ff

3. Control anger by remembering that:
 - a. You are not to play God by judging others. Mt. 7:1f Ro. 12:19 Js. 1:20
 - b. God has shown great mercy and grace to you. Mt. 18:21ff Eph. 4:32
 - c. God is sovereign. Gen. 50:20 Ro. 8:28
 - d. God is most to be valued and served. Mt. 6:33 Isa. 55:1-2
 4. When correcting someone who has wronged you:
 - a. Don't vent in anger. Eph. 4:29 Mt. 5:21f Js. 1:19
 - b. Instead, gently restore. Gal. 6:1 Js. 5:19-20 Pr. 15:1
 5. There is such a thing as righteous anger which expresses a zeal not for your own honor, but for the LORD. v. 34 John 2:13ff Ex. 11:8
- B. Be like Jonathan in keeping your covenant commitments with lovingkindness.**
1. Jonathan keeps his covenant promise even when it costs him.
 2. What covenants do we make?
 3. Keep your marriage covenant, even if it is hard. Gen. 2:24 Eph. 5:22ff Mal. 2:14 Mt. 19:1ff I Co. 13:4-8a
 4. Fulfill your other family duties. I Tim. 5:8 Mark 7:9-13 Eph. 6:4
 5. Be a faithful friend. Prov. 17:17 27:6,9-10 18:24
 6. Be committed to one another in the church body. Acts 2:42-47 Ro. 12:4-13
 7. Keep your word, including contracts. Mt. 5:33-37 Ps. 15:4

IV. Conclusion: How does this passage point us to the gospel of Christ?

- A. Christ kept covenant by showing costly lovingkindness.**
1. He fulfilled the Covenant of Redemption with the Father and the Holy Spirit. John 17:2,6,12 3:16 Ro. 5:18-19 Gal. 4:4 Heb. 2:14-18 Phil. 2:8
 2. He established the New Covenant by His blood. Jer. 31:31ff Heb. 10:1-4 9:11-28 Mark 14:24
 3. His covenant love for us assures us of salvation and security. Rom. 5:1-5
- B. Have you entered into covenant with Christ? John 3:16 Mt. 11:28-30**
1. Don't be like Saul who rejected and opposed the LORD's anointed one. Ps. 2:1-3
 2. Be like Jonathan who blesses and enters into covenant with the LORD's anointed king. v. 13b, 30 Ps. 2:10-12
 3. We are all but a step from death. v. 3b Heb. 9:27
 4. Show your love to Him who has so loved you. John 14:15
- C. When you are in trouble, run to your covenant friend Christ Who will treat you with lovingkindness and give you peace. v. 42 Mt. 11:28-30 Phil. 4:4-9 Jo. 14:27 Ro. 5:1-5 Ps. 23:6 63:3 103:17 Lam. 3:22-23**

Discussion questions.

1. What is a covenant?
2. In what sense are we in covenant with God?
3. How should our relationships with each other reflect our relationship with God.
4. Are we free to make covenants beyond those mandated in Scripture?
Should we have a formal church covenant?
5. What are the obligations of the marriage covenant?
How is the marriage covenant different for unbelievers?
6. When might our loyalty to God and His people prove to be costly for you?
7. Why do people get angry?
How can you overcome sinful anger?
8. What characterizes righteous anger?

CHURCH COVENANT (Grace Community Church, Hudsonville, Michigan)

Having accepted the Lord, Jesus Christ, as our personal Savior, and having been baptized, we joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ – to worship the Lord in spirit and truth, to edify the body of Christ, and to evangelize the unredeemed world.

We covenant together to live lives worthy of our calling in Christ Jesus, to be exemplary of Christ in our deportment; and to manifest the fruit of the Spirit in character and conduct.

We covenant together to love one another as Christ has loved us: To desire each other's Christlikeness and give of ourselves to promote the image of Christ in one another, to pray for and with one another and to meet one another's needs.

We covenant together to be a blameless and holy people; to promote the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; to abstain from and lovingly confront any element of unChristlike behavior or divisiveness; to speak words that administer grace and edify the body; and to reconcile offenses without delay.

We covenant together to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ; to be good stewards of our spiritual gifts and exercise them faithfully within our fellowship; to support our worship, doctrines, ordinances, and discipline; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry.

Finally, we covenant together to do all to the glory of God for the furthering of His kingdom.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Coming down upon the beard,
Even Aaron's beard,
Coming down upon the edges of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing--
Life forever.

[Psalm 133]