

**Romans (13):
The Faithfulness of God
(Rom. 3:1-8)**

Introduction:

Last Lord's Day we had a limited amount of time to address this passage before us, the first portion of Romans 3. We were able to consider the meaning of the first 4 verses in some detail, but we only touched upon verses 5 through 8. Let us now give our attention again to his passage. Turn with me to read **Romans 3:1-8**.

¹Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? ²Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That You may be justified in Your words,
And prevail when You are judged.”

⁵But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷But if through my lie God's truth abounds to His glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸And why not do evil that good may come?--as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. (Rom 3:1-8)

In Romans 1 and 2 the apostle Paul had indicted all Gentiles and all Jews as guilty sinners before God. Not many of his readers would have taken exception with what he had written regarding the Gentiles; everyone agreed that the Gentiles were both ungodly and unrighteous. But the Jews would have taken strong exception with what Paul had written of them in Romans 2. Paul had declared that the Jews were as guilty sinners before God just as were the Gentiles. They were both law-breakers. The Jews would have taken issue with this teaching. They assumed that because they were physically descended from Abraham, had the sign of physical circumcision, and that they thought that they had kept the Mosaic Law, that God would be faithful to His promises to give them salvation.

Paul had shown that the Jews was not assured of God's favor and blessing. Their circumcision, which was the sign of their covenant with God, would only bring benefit to them if they kept God's law. Romans 2:25 reads, “*For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision.*” Paul had accused the Jews as having been unfaithful to God and to His covenant. The possible responses of the Jews to this assertion are that if what Paul said were true, then (1) he was saying the Jew has no advantage over the Gentile, and (2) the Jew would have reason to question the faithfulness of God to keep His covenantal promises.

Paul addressed these possible objections of the Jews in these first verses of chapter 3 by employing the style of “the diatribe”, which we described last week. Paul posed questions as if he were challenged by objectors to his teaching. First, in **verse 1**, Paul asks (himself), “Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?” His answer is in **verse 2**, “Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.” And then in **verse 3** he asks the question (posed to himself), “What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?” Paul answers, “By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, ‘That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.’” Paul was asserting that even though people might be unfaithful to their commitment to God, God will be true, He will be faithful, to His covenantal commitments to them. In fact, what Paul implies is

that the Jews unfaithfulness to God will actually be the cause of God to show forth His faithfulness in bringing His judgment upon them.

This leads Paul to address another possible objection to his teaching. It is a rather humanistic argument; Paul himself wrote that in expressing this matter he was speaking “in a human way.” The idea is this: “If by our unfaithfulness we are enabling God to display the glory of His faithfulness, why should God punish us with His wrath?” **Verse 5** reads,

⁵But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.)

Paul dismisses this reasoning forthrightly. **Verse 6** records, “By no means! For then how could God judge the world?” If you followed that kind of thinking, then God would be unable to justly judge the world, which, of course, is a ridiculous scenario to consider.

Verse 7 speaks of the same way of thinking, but is expressed by Paul in the first person voice. **“But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?”** When Paul makes reference to “my lie”, he was placing himself as one that was guilty of unfaithfulness to his covenant with God. It is a similar idea that he expressed in **verse 4**, “Let God be true though every one were a liar.” In other words, even though man will be a liar with respect to his promise to be true to his covenantal commitment to God, God will always prove to be true to His promises and commitments. Here in verse 7, Paul is saying, of himself, “Even though I may prove to be liar and not be true and faithful to God, it will cause God to be that much more glorified when His faithfulness is seen.” The same “human way” of thinking is added in Paul’s words. In effect Paul was saying, “If through my unfaithfulness God is greatly glorified in His faithfulness, why should I be condemned?” This is really a silly appeal by a sinner and will get him no where before God.

Next Paul proposes an even more an egregious scenario. Some of Paul’s detractors were claiming that to follow Paul’s argument, and that the Jews’ unfaithfulness will show forth greater glory to God, then why not intentionally sin so that we might greatly glorify God? **Verse 8** reads, **“And why not do evil that good may come?--as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.”** Paul would not dignify that claim with an effort to provide an answer. The person who thinks like that deserves damnation.

In this last rhetorical question Paul was indirectly upbraiding his enemies who opposed him and his message everywhere that he had ministered the Gospel. These people, commonly referred to as the Judaizers, claimed to be Christian. They taught, however, that salvation was attained through faith in Jesus Christ plus keeping the full law of Moses as a way of meriting God’s favor. They were legalists, who added to the gospel the works of the law as the way of salvation. Legalists will tend to accuse gospel preachers like Paul of antinomianism, that is, they accused Paul of teaching that you can sin with impunity. Paul’s gospel in no way permits or encourages people to sin so that the grace of God would be glorified, as his opposers slanderously accused him.

That this was a common problem that Paul had to address in his ministry is reflected elsewhere, even in this epistle. In Romans 6 Paul appealed to these Christians to live in a manner consistent with their profession of faith. He wrote, “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” (Rom. 6:1f). There were those that accused Paul falsely of promoting that kind of message.

Through these 2½ chapters that we have examined in this epistle to the Romans, we have considered the common trait of sinful man to be one of **unfaithfulness to God**; man is a covenant breaker. At the same time, throughout these opening sections of this epistle we have been shown in many various ways the uninterrupted, unvaried, unwavering **faithfulness of God**. He is faithful to His creatures. God is a covenant-keeper. He is faithful to His covenantal promises. He may be depended upon to be faithful to all of His words and purposes in history.

I would like us now to stand back and reflect upon this glorious trait of our triune God—**the faithfulness of God**.

Faithfulness should be understood to be an essential attribute of our God. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor. 1:9). Faithfulness is an aspect of God’s essence; it is who He is. If He were not faithful, then He could not be God. When Moses attempted to describe God to His people Israel, he spoke of the faithfulness of God:

“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations...” (Deut. 7:9)

God is a covenant keeper, because He is a faithful God.

The psalmist declared that God was surrounded with faithfulness: “O LORD God of hosts, Who *is* mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You” (Psa. 89:8).

God cannot be anything but faithful. For God to be unfaithful, it would “ungod” Him. There can be no such thing as an unfaithful God, for that would be a being that would act or work contrary to His very nature, which cannot be with the true God.

The quality of faithfulness is seen in the full and uncompromised commitment and execution of all that one promises or commits to do. To be faithful is to be true to one’s word. God has always been true to His Word; He cannot be otherwise. As Paul described Him to Timothy, “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself” (2 Tim. 2:13). Paul could have said, “If we are covenant breakers; He is a covenant keeper; He cannot and will not fail to keep His Word.

The faithfulness of God is infinite. He has never nor can He ever go against His Word. That is why the Bible, the Holy Scriptures are trusted and regarded as God’s Word. God is faithful; He cannot lie. God is faithful in that what He has declared must be true and will always be true. That is why the Scripture declares: “Great is Thy faithfulness” (Lam. 3:23). And in Psalm 119:90 we read, “Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.”

God has never failed to be faithful. God has never failed anyone. Not one of His promises has failed. His faithfulness is always the same and knows no diminishment, intermittency, or breach. His faithfulness is firmly established: “Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens.” (Psa. 89:2). God had promised, “Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, nor allow My faithfulness to fail” (Psa. 89:33).

God is faithful to all of His creatures, whether they are Christian or not. He is a faithful Creator. The Christian may therefore entrust Himself to God in times of difficulty. 1 Peter 4:19 reads, “Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”

We can be assured that God will bring to pass all of His promises of salvation for us because He is faithful.

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it”. (1 Thess. 5:23)

Again, the faithfulness to which we most look is God’s commitment to be true to His Word.

God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (Num 23:19)

Let us consider more specifically how the faithfulness of God is manifested to us and the world.

1. God’s faithfulness may be seen by us as we look at the creation which God has made.

We read in the early chapters of Genesis that there was a time when God was at war with this world. God had looked down upon man and saw nothing but wickedness. He then determined to destroy it by means of a word-wide flood. We read in Genesis 6:

⁵Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." (Gen. 6:5ff)

After God had destroyed the old world by means of a flood, God made a promise regarding the world that He communicated to Noah.

⁸Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹"And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹²And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." (Gen. 9:8-16)

God is depicted as the retiring warrior, who had returned home after successfully waging warfare and defeating His enemy. As a sign of peace to those who knew him, the warrior would hang up his archery bow; we can envision one hanging over the mantle. It signified that the warfare has ceased. God had been true and faithful in His judgment, and now He had sworn that there would be peace. The bow hung up in open display before all showed that the weapon was no longer employed against its enemies. When we see a rainbow in the clouds, it is a sign that God has made a promise to this world that He will never again destroy the world by means of a flood. When we see *a rainbow in the clouds*, it should immediately remind us of God's faithfulness to us and His world.

God's faithfulness is also displayed for us in the set places and courses of *the stars and planets, our moon and our sun*, always in their places making their circuit, year after year, millennium after millennium.

Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day,
The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night,
Who disturbs the sea,
And its waves roar

(The LORD of hosts is His name):

³⁶"If those ordinances depart
From before Me, says the LORD,
Then the seed of Israel shall also cease
From being a nation before Me forever." (Jer. 31:35-36)

Here, the certainty and dependability that the sun and moon and stars will remain in their respective places shows the faithfulness of God.

The dependability of *the changing seasons* is also evidence of the faithfulness of God to all generations. God had said,

"While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,

Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease." (Gen 8:22)

As we see the changing of the seasons, with summer turning to autumn, we should be reminded of faithfulness of God. It occurs every year about this time because God is faithful. We should thank Him for His faithfulness. When we look up in the sky and see the regular course the sun takes day after day, the phases of the moon are shown month to month, and the stars are in their regular places night after night, it should cause us to remember the faithfulness of our God and it should cause us to be thankful toward Him for His faithfulness.

2. This faithfulness is shown in God's undiminished and unchanging purpose to maintain His nation of Israel through history.

God has preserved His people throughout history. He has done this without interruption. From time to time only a remnant existed, but with the coming of Jesus Christ, His wresting control of Israel from the Jewish leaders and entrusting it to His 12 apostles, that nation of Israel, now spiritual Israel, has continued to exist to the present day and it will continue to exist through eternity (cf. 1 Pet. 2:9f).

3. The faithfulness of God is seen with respect to His work through Jesus Christ to secure the salvation of his people.

God made promises both to Jesus Christ and through Jesus Christ respecting the salvation that He would bring to His people. God has been faithful to bring to pass all that He said He would do. As **John Gill** once put it:

In the performance of what He (God) has said of Him (Christ); as that He should be born of a woman, be of the seed of Abraham, spring from the tribe of Judah, arise out of the family of David, be born of a virgin at Bethlehem, and converse much in Galilee, (Gen. 3:15, 22:18, 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:12, 13; Mic. 5:2; Isa. 7:14 9:1, 2) and suffer, and die, and work out the salvation of His people, (Ps. 22:1-31; Isa. 53:1-12, 25:9 35:4, 49:6) all which has been fully accomplished (Matthew 1:1, 18-23, 2:5, 6, 8, 11, 22, 23, 4:13-16; Luke 1:68-72; 1 Cor. 15:3).¹

God the Father had promised that He would call Christ to His office of Savior, equip Him, and "hold His hand" that is, guide and assist Him in His work of redeeming His people. God showed Himself faithful in fulfilling all of His promises to His Son. For example we read in Psalm 89 of these promises of God to His coming Servant, the Son of David, the Savior of His people:

¹⁹Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one,
And said: "I have given help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰I have found My servant David;
With My holy oil I have anointed him,

²¹With whom My hand shall be established;
Also My arm shall strengthen him.

²²The enemy shall not outwit him,
Nor the son of wickedness afflict him.

²³I will beat down his foes before his face,
And plague those who hate him.

^{24c}*But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him,*
And in My name his horn shall be exalted.

¹ John Gill, *The Body of Divinity* (Turner Lassetter, 1965), p. 114.

²⁵Also I will set his hand over the sea,
And his right hand over the rivers.
²⁶He shall cry to Me, ‘You are my Father,
My God, and the rock of my salvation.’
²⁷Also I will make him My firstborn,
The highest of the kings of the earth.
²⁸My mercy I will keep for him forever,
And My covenant shall stand firm with him.
²⁹His seed also I will make to endure forever,
And his throne as the days of heaven. (Psa. 89:19-29)

We also read of other places in which God promised to help the Savior in His work of salvation.

“For the Lord GOD will help Me;
Therefore I will not be disgraced;
Therefore I have set My face like a flint,
And I know that I will not be ashamed.
⁸He is near who justifies Me;
Who will contend with Me?
Let us stand together.
Who is My adversary?
Let him come near Me.
⁹***Surely the Lord GOD will help Me;***
Who is he who will condemn Me?
Indeed they will all grow old like a garment;
The moth will eat them up. (Isa. 50:7-9)

God also promised Christ that though He would die, God would not allow Him to remain dead, but God promised that He would raise Jesus up and enthrone Him in heaven. In Psalm 16 we read of David speaking of Christ prophetically; it is as though Jesus Christ were speaking::

⁷I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.
⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.
⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.
¹⁰For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
¹¹You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psa. 16:7-9)

We could multiply references in the Psalms and Prophets of God making promises and commitments to Jesus Christ that He would show forth His faithfulness to Him and through Him in His office as Prophet, Priest, and King of His people. And of course God the Father has been faithful to His Son in all of these matters. Oh God! Great is Thy faithfulness!

4. The faithfulness of God is seen in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ Himself to fulfill all His Father’s will and to be true to the many and varied promises that He has made to His people.

Jesus Christ shows Himself forth as absolutely faithful to His calling and responsibility as Savior and Lord to His people. He is the brightness of His Father's glory. The faithfulness of God is seen in the life and work of the Son of God.

First, we may see Christ's faithfulness in His commitment to fulfill His office as the Mediator of salvation to His people. Hebrews 3:1ff sets forth the faithfulness of our Savior:

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ²who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. ³For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. ⁵And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, ⁶but *Christ as a Son over His own house*, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. (Heb. 3:1-6)

Here Jesus Christ is described as having been a faithful Son over His Household, in other words, His spiritual family.

Second, more specifically, we may see the faithfulness of Jesus Christ to us in the execution of His offices as our Prophet, Priest, and King. (1) Jesus Christ was and is a faithful *Prophet*. Our Lord Jesus being one with the Father in essence, having the mind of God, could faithfully reveal God and speak on God's behalf to us as God's Prophet to His people. This is why He is described Himself as "the Amen, the *faithful* and *true Witness*" in Rev. 3:14). It is said of Him, "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure" (John 3:34). He had declared that He had faithfully spoken all that the Father had instructed Him to say and teach. "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works" (John 14:10). Jesus was faithful to speak clearly and fully, faithfully speaking to people regardless of who they were or how they might receive what He had told them. Even Jesus' opposers could honestly say of Him when they approached Him: "Teacher, we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism, but teach the way of God in truth" (Luke 20:21). They had confessed that they knew Jesus spoke in faithfulness to His hearers."

(2) Jesus Christ was also faithful in the execution of His office as the **Priest** to His people before God. It was said of Him: "Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17). Christ has faithfully represented those of us who believe before our God in heaven. He has prayed for us as a faithful priest does. He sacrificed Himself for us, as a faithful priest would execute sacrifices on behalf of the people. He serves as a faithful Advocate for His people before the throne of God. He ever lives to make intercession for His people before the throne of His Father.

(3) And thirdly, Jesus Christ manifests His faithfulness in His current reign and service to His people as their **King**. All of His actions toward His people as He oversees them and preserves them, is because He is a faithful King over His people. He provides protection for us, He assures that we have security, food, and shelter. He preserves us from the enemy. He comes to our rescue when in trouble. He is a faithful king to us. He is called "faithful and true, since in righteousness he doth judge and make war" (Rev. 15:3, 19:11).

Thirdly, and similarly, we may see the faithfulness of Jesus Christ to His Father in Him accomplishing all that the Father had entrusted Him to be and do. Whereas above, we were speaking of Christ's faithfulness to us, His people, here we are speaking of His faithfulness to God His Father, doing all of His Father's will.

Jesus Christ is faithful in that He has stood forward as God's Substitute and Surety for His people. Our Lord Jesus has been faithful to stand in our place, bear our punishment, stand forward and represent us before the Father. He is the Surety, or Guarantee, of a new and better covenant with God.

¹⁸For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, ¹⁹for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. ²⁰And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath ²¹(for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:

“The LORD has sworn
And will not relent,
‘You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek’”),

²²by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

²³Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. ²⁴But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; ²⁷who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. (Heb. 7:18-28)

Jesus Christ resolved and swore His commitment to be faithful to do His Father's will. These are our Lord Jesus' words to His Father:

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come-- In the volume of the book it is written of Me-- To do Your will, O God.’” ⁸Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*” (which are offered according to the law), ⁹then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” (Heb. 10:7-9)

Our Lord Jesus Christ stood forward and committed Himself to satisfy our debt before God; He has been faithful in fulfilling all of His Word to us. He cleared us of all of our accounts which contained unpayable obligations for which we could not repay.

Fourthly, the faithfulness of God may be seen in Jesus Christ in His commitment to be all that His people need and could desire.

Jesus Christ has committed to be a faithful Shepherd unto us, being willing to lay down His life for His sheep, to count them to assure they all are there with Him, safe and secure. He leads them out to pasture. He brings them into a place of security in the night. When Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own" (John 10:14), He was declaring, among other things, that He was the faithful Shepherd who would see to the security and provision of His sheep. **John Gill** wrote:

The faithfulness of Christ is manifest in the fulfillment of His promises, which He made to His disciples; as, that He would not leave them comfortless, but come and see them; as He did, after His resurrection, and comforted them with His presence, and filled them with joy at the sight of Him (John 14:18, 20:20), that they should receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and therefore were bid to wait at Jerusalem for it, and where it was bestowed upon them, on the day of Pentecost, in a very large and extraordinary manner (Acts 1:4, 2:4, 33), that He would be with them in the administration of His word and ordinances; and accordingly did go forth and work with them, confirming the word by signs following (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:20), yea, He has promised His presence with His ministers and churches to the end of the world, and that even “where two or three are gathered together in His name, He will be in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:20 28:20) and He makes His word good, which the experience of His ministers and people in all ages confirms: He has promised also to come again, and take His disciples and faithful followers to Himself, that where He is they may be also; and which was not only verified in His immediate

disciples, but in His saints in all ages, whom, when they have served their generation according to the will of God, He comes and takes them to Himself, by death; and “to them that look for him, will he appear a second time, without sin, unto salvation” (John 14:2, 3; Heb. 9:28).²

There are many, many other ways we could show forth the faithfulness of God to us who believe on the Lord Jesus. But perhaps we have provided sufficient cause for us to reflect and rejoice on this matter.

5. But let me conclude today with a few exhortations that we should take to heart.

1. Let us strive by God’s grace to be faithful as our God, as our Savior is faithful. We have seen that faithfulness is an attribute of God. But it is one of His communicable attributes. In other words, we can become like God in this manner. Let us also be faithful in all that God has called us. May the Lord enable us to be covenant keepers, faithful ones to keep our words of promise to God and to one another. Let our yes be yes and our no be no. Be true to Your Word. Be true to Your commitments. Be true to Your God. May each of us hear our Savior say to us: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” (Matt. 25:21).

2. Let us be mindful that the Lord has also promised that He will be faithful in bringing forth His judgment. God is faithful. And Paul in the portion of Romans 3 that we have considered is asserting that the unfaithfulness of those who should have been faithful, will result in seeing the faithfulness of God in judging them in righteousness on the day when He will judge the secrets of men’s hearts.

God was faithful when He threatened Adam with certain judgment and death in the day that he would eat of that tree of knowledge of good and evil. God had been faithful to the antediluvian world in that He declared through Noah that His watery judgment would come upon the world. God threatened the nation of Israel with His faithfulness to bring ruin upon them if they broke His covenant. He would be faithful to them for good if they kept His covenant; He would be faithful to them in bringing judgment if they broke their covenant, which they did throughout their history. God has promised and God is faithful to all of His promises, that He will one day cause this old world to come to an end.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; (2 Pet. 3:10-14)

3. Let us all resort to our God as faithful to save us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is a faithful refuge for all of His people who resort to Him in faith. He is always faithful to receive us, as we flee to Him. The guilty one fled to a city of refuge in Old Testament days, and there he found safety and security from the avenger. God has promised refuge for us sinners, when we have fled to His side in faith for Him to cover us and preserve us. And He is faithful to do so, thankfully. Let us always bless and thank God for His faithfulness to His Word and faithfulness to us who have fled to Christ.

“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. (1 Thess. 5:24)

² Ibid., p. 116.