

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:3-8

The Unique Joy of Faithfulness

FAITHFUL GOD

God Was Faithful to Keep the Colossians Faithful

God Was Faithful as Father

God Was Faithful to Lay Up the Colossians' Hope in Heaven

God Was Faithful to Save People throughout the Whole World

FAITHFUL SAINTS IN COLOSSAE

Epaphras Was Faithful in Ministering to the Colossians

The Colossians Were Faithful in Receiving and Responding to the Gospel

FAITHFUL PRAYERS OF PAUL

Faithful Prayer Is Always Directed at God

Faithful Prayer Is Filled with Thanksgiving

Faithful Prayer Is Amazed by God's Grace

Faithful Prayers Are Offered through Jesus Christ

Faithful Prayer Is Eternally Focused

Faithful prayers are globally aware.

Finally, Faithful Prayer Is Concerned with Others

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that thanksgiving and joy during significant trials come from our faith in God's faithfulness. And the main takeaway is to cultivate understanding of God, His promises, and His commands, in order that we might trust and obey (live faithfully), in order that we might walk in joyful thanksgiving whatever may come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. How do you usually respond to significant trials? How would others describe your disposition when life is hard? Have you ever had a supernatural joy through a difficult situation because you were surrounded by gospel faithfulness?
3. Have you ever had a trial made more difficult by faithlessness (yours or someone else's)?
4. Describe some ways that you have clearly seen God's faithfulness in your life.
5. Which aspect of God's faithfulness revealed in this passage (see outline above) has been most encouraging to you?
6. How do you respond to the idea of God as a perfectly faithful Father?
7. Have you ever met anyone as faithful as Epaphras? What do you think it would be like to spend time with him?
8. Faith in the gospel, faith-driven love for non-Christians, and faith that the gospel is the power of God are all essential ingredients for an evangelistic life. Which of those do you have/lack? How does that show up in your evangelism?
9. Do you think it would be easier to have been a Christian in Colossae at the time of this letter or in Minnesota today? Why?
10. Which aspect of Paul's faithful prayer is most and least natural for you? What can you do to grow in your prayer life?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Read straight through the entire book of Colossians.
13. Begin memorizing Colossians 1:15-20.
14. Begin praying for three people you'd like to see trust in Jesus and three people you'd like to see mature in Jesus.
15. Find a way to get more plugged in at Grace Church and one way to engage more fully in gospel ministry.
16. Find one way to cultivate understanding of God, His promises, and His commands.
17. Listen to [THIS MESSAGE](#) on what God is doing around the world or read [THIS DEVOTIONAL](#).
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God that He is Father and Lord. Praise God that He is all and in all. Praise God that He is eternal, gracious, merciful, joyful, and generous. Praise God that He is personal and loving. Praise God that He is truth and justice.
21. Confess. Confess faithlessness in God's promises. Confess any doubt you have in God's goodness in your circumstances. Confess a lack of evangelistic and/or ministry engagement. Confess indifference to the well-being of others.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for the faithful Christians in your life (by name). Thank God for the person who first shared the gospel with you. Thank God for the people most helpful in your spiritual growth. Thank God for laying up hope in heaven for all who trust in Jesus. Thank God for the fruit that He is bearing in our church, in our country, and around the world.
23. Supplication. Ask God to make our church more faithful to Him. Ask God to save three specific people. Ask God to strengthen us as a praying church. Ask God to bear a specific fruit in your life this week. Ask God to give you a global view.