KNOWING GOD

LESSON 11

Title: The Faithfulness of God

Text: I Corinthians 10:13, I Thessalonians 5:23-25, II Thessalonians 3:3

1. **Review**:
   1. “God alone is free to do whatever He wills to do anywhere at any time to carry out His eternal purpose in every single detail without interference.” ––A.W. Tozer
   2. Every person may choose for himself to accept or reject Jesus Christ.
   3. “There is freedom to choose which side we shall be on but no freedom to negotiate the results of the choice once it is made.” ––A.W. Tozer.
2. **Introduction**:
   1. Several of the following lessons will deal with the moral attributes of God. These are attributes that have to do with His moral character, His perfection.
   2. Keep in mind that every attribute of God is a must. Take away any of the attributes and you then speak of someone less than God.
   3. As someone well said, “We may study the attributes of God separately, but we can never separate the attributes of God.”
   4. In this lesson we will consider the faithfulness of God. Each verse we read proclaims the fact that God is faithful. Our purpose is to see what that means, and more importantly what it means to us.
3. **Faithfulness defined**.
   1. The word translated faithful means:
      1. Trustworthy or trustful.
      2. Dependable.
      3. Believable, sure, true.
   2. Consider the word as used in our texts.
      1. I Corinthians 10:13: Regarding temptation, you can depend on God to make the temptation bearable.
      2. I Thessalonians 5:23-25: What God calls you to do He is able to do and complete. You can take it to the bank! He is true, sure, and trustworthy.
      3. I Thessalonians 5:23-25: Walk with God and let Him stablish and keep you from evil.
   3. A biblical illustration of God’s faithfulness. (Hebrews 11:11-12
      1. This is so amazing because for so long Sarah doubted that she would have a son. She even laughed when God told Abraham that she would have a baby.
      2. Yet, she finally conceived and gave birth to Isaac “because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”
      3. She finally came to the place where she said, “God is to be trusted. He is believable, you can depend on Him.”
4. **Further explanation of God’s faithfulness**.
   1. God’s faithfulness means that each of His attributes is consistent with every other attribute.
      1. Some men cannot get this reconciled in their mind and want to major on one attribute or another.
      2. For example, some seem to think that the mercy of God somehow cancels out His justice.
         1. But God is faithful, meaning there is no inconsistency in Him. He is both merciful and just. Always!
         2. You cannot exclude mercy and speak of God and you cannot exclude justice and speak of God.
      3. “The familiar picture of God as torn between His justice and mercy is altogether false to the facts.” ––A.W. Tozer
      4. God is never frustrated or torn between His attributes. With God, there is always love even in judgment and mercy even in justice. We cannot emphasize one attribute to the exclusion of another.
   2. God is therefore always faithful in all of His acts.
      1. Romans 11:22: “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God…”
      2. Consider the great flood in Noah’s day.
         1. The flood was an exercise of God’s judgment because of His justice.
         2. But the 120 years in which Noah preached, as well as the Ark, was evidence of God’s love and mercy.
      3. Consider Sodom’s destruction.
         1. Fire and brimstone fell on Sodom because of God’s justice.
         2. Yet, the fact that God was willing to spare the city for the sake of 10 righteous souls shows God’s love and mercy.
      4. Consider the plagues of Egypt.
         1. The plagues, obviously, were the judgement of God.
         2. The fact that the death angel did not come right off shows God’s mercy. He sent nine plagues to give them opportunity to repent.
   3. To know God, we must dare to believe everything He says about Himself.
      1. “It is a grave responsibility that a man takes upon himself when he seeks to edit out of God’s self-revelation such features as he in his ignorance deems objectional.” ––A.W. Tozer
      2. Don’t dare apologize for anything God reveals about Himself.
5. **To consider God’s faithfulness from the viewpoint of our unfaithfulness should be a great blessing to God’s people**.
   1. Men can only become partially faithful.
   2. Though we strive for faithfulness, our faithfulness can be greatly affected by weakness, wrong desires, fear, and divided affections.
   3. It is a great blessing to know that God’s faithfulness is unaffected by anything because He never changes (immutable).