

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

2 Corinthians 1:12-22, 6:14-18, 11:2,3

God's covenant with His redeemed people is the backbone & living thread the unites the Bible, from Eden to the New Earth, with Christ at the center. Promised in seed form in Genesis 3:15, advanced with Abraham, expanded at Sinai with Israel, fulfilled by Christ (the new covenant in His blood), and arriving at its glorious consummation when He comes again and the dwelling of God is with men in the new heavens & earth (Rev. 21,22).

There are two sides to God's covenant with His people – the side of God's promises of grace, and the side of our response to Him in faith.

These are well illustrated in Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians.

1. God's covenant faithfulness ...

2 Cor.6:16 well expresses the **essence** of the covenant:

"I will be their God, and they will be My people."

This is NOT a quote from a particular verse in the OT, so much

As a summing up of any number of verses, such as,

Genesis 17:7, where God speaks to Abraham of His covenant:

"My covenant between Me and you and your generations after you for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your children after you."

In all of these expressions of the covenant, it is GOD who always takes

The initiative, reveals Himself, makes the covenant, declares it meaning (NOT negotiated), as for example -

He chose & called Abraham; He sent Moses, delivered Israel

From slavery in Egypt, & brought them to Himself at Sinai, etc.

God binds Himself with with solemn oaths promising salvation – as Hebrews 6:13-18 declares.

AND GOD IS FAITHFUL – that is His nature.

How do we know? He says it & He shows it. Romans 8:32 –

The promises of God are sealed in the blood of His Son.

This is Paul's point in 2 Corinthians 1:18,19.

God will NOT throw away the sacrifice of Christ His eternal Son

By which He fulfills His oaths and brings His salvation to us.

You can stake your life on it.

2. Calls us to faith and faithfulness.

When our faithful God brings us into covenant with Himself, He calls us to answer Him with **faith in Christ & faithfulness to Him**.

For example, promises made & sealed in baptism to Bill & Rachel, called them to repent of sin & believe in Christ –

which by God's grace they have done; & we heard them.

Everything God promises is received by faith in Christ – *or not at all!*

AND, as God IS faithful, He calls us to be like Him (our Father)

in faithfulness to Him & to all our relations with people.

This is Paul's point in 1:12-23, in 6:14-7:1, & in 11:2-3.