

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday March 7,2010

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:13

There is a movement among Evangelicals today to equate *faith* in Christ with *faithfulness* to Him. In other words, someone who holds this view would say, that the thing that saves us is *not* faith in Christ *alone* – as the Reformers taught - but our faithfulness to obey Christ and do what He says !

Now, I understand why people hold this view. They're tired of what's been called "*easy-believism*" - the belief that, once you've prayed a "*prayer of salvation*," you're saved whether you continue to walk with Christ or not! Of course the Bible does not teach that. It is, in fact, very clear that a genuine saving faith will always bring a genuinely changed life! "*If any man is in Christ, he's a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new!*" (2 Cor 5:17). So we understand that the same faith that justifies us in Christ will also sanctify us to Christ. He saves us *and* He makes us holy!

And yet the problem with this other view, is that it leaves me at a loss when I find that my obedience has failed and I am not as faithful to follow Jesus as I desire to be. such failures are not the same as willful and continuous rebellion. That *would* be an indication I don't belong to Christ. But what about when I just fail? What about when, despite my best intentions I give into temptation and sin! Does my lack of faithfulness in such cases, disqualify my profession of faith in Christ? For, if faith is the same thing as *faithfulness*, then I'm left with a serious problem and no choice but to despair! For I cannot build a lasting assurance by looking inward at myself or my performance! **So, What do you do when your faithfulness fails!** That's what we'll be looking at this morning! Friend, there is hope in the saving, transforming grace of Christ!

Looking to Him by faith alone!!

Pastor Scott