Faithfulness

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This message was recorded at Vision Baptist Church in Alfred, Georgia. It is our prayer that you will be blessed by the preaching of God's Word. Like you knew what you were saying, you know? I like that. Can't think of anything manlier than a group of men talking about their dependency on the cross and how it changed everything for us.

The world would like to define it differently, but there's nothing that can be manlier than that. Those that know me know I'm not drinking coffee, because I don't do that. But if you would be willing to help me find a Bible verse tonight, take one of these and pass it along.

It's just a list of Bible verses there, and I'll ask you to read some of them tonight. If you want to turn to Proverbs chapter number 6, we're at the end of the chapter. Robert took us to the first part of the chapter.

It's been a few months ago. And if there was two words, I would have summed up what he said then was, Be careful. That passage of Scripture warns us against stuff. And this portion of Scripture tells us to be faithful.

So what I'm going to do is I'm going to pray, and after I pray, the ushers are going to pass the plates as we get started in our service tonight. Heavenly Father, thank you for an opportunity to study your Word.

[1:11] Help us, Lord, see the power and the meaning of the text here. Lord, I pray that I won't get in the way. Allow me to be a voice for the text. Thank you for this wonderful group of men. We're very much aware, Lord, that you did the work to bring them here to this church, to have our hearts beating together with your heartbeat for the world and for this community, for your glory.

Thank you for meeting our needs, Lord. And I pray that you'll be with us tonight as we worship you through song, through giving, and through responding to your Word. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen. Proverbs 620. Michael, I'm really glad to see you here tonight. I feel like he's grown two inches. Even though he's 21, he's not grown anymore. But he is one tall dude. Really glad that you're here tonight, Michael.

Yep. Alright, good deal. And he is the Proverbs 620. We're going to look at 15 verses here together. Do any of your dads have sayings or axioms or something that they just said all the time?

Some of you are already smiling, so I'm guessing you do. Anybody want to share one? It's got to be appropriate for church, okay? That your dad said. How many of you never held the flashlight right for your dad? Anybody like that?

[2:19] No matter, because you didn't, you know? I didn't realize it. Now I know. You don't know how to hold a flashlight until you're 31, which is what I turned. Alright, so anybody in here? What's one of the sayings your dad had?

Yes. He said they're like toenails. Everybody has them. Nice. That's kind of gross and cool all together. Anybody else have one?

A saying that your dad would say? Come on. Nothing. Alright. Come on, Robert. When you first moved here, you know that.

That's it right there. Eighty percent of everything Robert said in his first year at visual was, my dad says, and then he would say whatever he wanted, whatever. It was good. And we've seen him.

He's a good dad. Yeah, an empty hand is a wasted hand. The pastor always likes to remind us that on the farm, you never touch anything twice. You know, so if you move something, you don't touch it twice.

[3:15] I tell him, I don't know exactly how that applies, but I like that story. You know, but there's all kinds of sayings that help mold and shape what you're doing. And some of you in here, we've shared before, maybe some of the men I've been at a marriage retreat with before, and we kind of shared about how we didn't have those growing up.

Even if you had the most wonderful dad in the world, or if you had a dad that was absent, when you come to the word of God, like in Matthew chapter number six, and verse number 20, and you read those words where it says, my son, keep thy father's commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother.

It ought to bring wonderful comfort to you, because this is Solomon speaking to his son, but more so it's our heavenly father speaking through Solomon to all sons.

So, no matter what your condition was growing up, when we read in the word of God, my son, keep thy father's commandment, our heart ought to rejoice and say, man, I am so thankful to have a faithful heavenly father, and then to have his word.

And dads, and those of you that teach in here, could I challenge you to think about this? I often times think about what I want to teach people, but I often forget that the most important thing we're going to do is how to teach them to teach themselves.

[4:30] If you want to challenge your kids to read the Bible in 2014, John and I were talking about this the other day, middle school and high school, that not only what are we going to teach them, but do we help them learn how to read the Bible themselves?

You can tell people all day, I remember being told all the time to read my Bible. They told me what to read, they told me when to read, and they told me all the benefits of it, but it was when people started to show me how to read the Bible that I really wanted to do it.

And so I hope we'll read this together in Proverbs 6, and we'll get some understanding what our Heavenly Father wants all of His sons to know. Let me tell you a quick story. Hugh Latimer was preaching one day in the presence of King Henry VIII.

It always seems like when it's a king, it's always Henry VIII. It's the only one I know of. He reports that he said to himself, before he spoke before the king, he said, Latimer, Latimer, remember that the king is here. Be careful what you say.

Then he meditated in his heart, and he said, Latimer, Latimer, remember that the king of kings is here. Be careful what you do not say. For such unflinching faithfulness, Latimer was eventually burned at the stake, but he feared failing God more than he feared offending men.

So this is a hard portion of Scripture about being faithful in our relationship to God, first of all, and then secondly to our wives. And, you know, I want to be aware of the fact that there's men in here that are elders to me that are older, and I want to be respectful, but also know that the king of kings is known that we're handling His word, and I want to be respectful of that, and say it appropriately of you.

So there's many stats about unfaithfulness in a marriage, what they say. They say, you know, 50% of marriages end in divorce, or they say adultery is even higher.

When they talk about that, a man will step out on his wife and come back in. But if you take those numbers, which many of them are at times probably inflated, so they give us this idea that everybody's doing it.

But secondly, if you throw into that what's really at the heart of things, when Jesus said, if you look upon a woman to lust, you've committed adultery, then the numbers go out of the roof. Because you can sit in here real easily and say, I'm off the hook.

I know for certain that I haven't been involved in that sin. But when you throw that factor in there, when Jesus takes it even farther, and says not just on the outward, but in the inward, then you think about the world we live in, where everything is sold by lust.

[6:52] I mean, things that don't have to be are sold by lust. If you buy this pair of glasses, then women will flock after you. Old Spice used to be just for old men. How many of you wear Old Spice in here?

Can I see your hands? Look at you, Chuck. All right. No? John's wearing Old Spice. Anybody else? All right. Ben. All right. You see, you think Old Spice is more for older gentlemen, you know?

But my nephews wanted Old Spice, and there's a series of commercials that go on that say, there's one that's really creepy, but it's this idea that you spray a man on yourself. That if you wear Old Spice, you're now a man, and you get treated like a man.

Old Spice is genius. Yeah. John's like, he's not wearing it anymore. The advertisement went from one group to the other. He's like, I'm out. And, but that's the idea. It's like, yeah, men wear Old Spice.

That's true, young people, but don't you want to be a man? So go buy Old Spice, and that younger middle school age is buying it, because it's that idea that you get to be a man. And they know what we really want.

They know what men sell, to men. Get that respect that you deserve. And it's around us all the time. But we have the Word of God, and it's our Heavenly Father, guiding us through life, and telling us, you know, regardless of what's going on, you can do this, my son.

So verse 21, when my son, keep thy father's commandments, forsake not the law of thy mother, bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee. When thou sleepest, it shall keep thee.

And when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. Our God is faithful. Anybody have Deuteronomy 7, 9? But first of all, we look to our Heavenly Father to see how we should live our lives, and we are told that our God is faithful to us.

His faithfulness reaches to the skies. Psalms 36, 5. Psalms 33, and verse 4. His faithfulness, He is faithful in all that He does. Somebody have Psalms 89, 1.

We'll have you read that. And then His faithfulness is not dependent on our faithfulness, what Romans 3, 3, and 4 tells us. That even though we aren't faithful to Him, He remains faithful. Who asked Psalms 89, 1?

Or did y'all just put my cup under the chair and said, we're not playing your silly game. What is it, Brother Ty? I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever. With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. So not only do we find there that He is faithful, but we're told that's something that we're supposed to tell people about.

That we're supposed to remind one another that our God is faithful. We're supposed to remind unbelievers of it. And then when we get together with the brothers, we're supposed to celebrate and rejoice and praise that our God is faithful.

That's a powerful statement, isn't it? No matter what goes on. Deuteronomy 7, verse 9. Know therefore that the Lord God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with Him, that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations.

I love the way our Uncle Sam says it. God, thank you for being God. You are unlike any other God. You're like any other thing that we could set our heart on.

You never leave us. You never forsake us. You're always faithful. And so first of all, I just want to remind you quickly, and I'm going to look at all those verses there, that God is faithful. And secondly, when you're studying the Bible, I don't know about you, but when I said forsake not the law of thy mother, I'm like, come on, why does that apply to the mom's?

[10:09] Why is it the mom's law? And I'm thinking, what is the mother's law? Is it cleanliness? Is it take out the trash? What are you talking about here? And we begin to look at it, and it's just a wonderful thing here.

It assumes that the law a mother teaches a child is the Word of God, and it's the same as the dad. Father's commandments, mother's law, it's the same thing, and it's reminding the child that you've got two sources of authority, a mom and dad here, but they're ultimately coming from the same place.

God's commandment, and God's law, and we should be working there, reminding us that it's God's Word. And as a teacher, as a preacher, would not do well to take the teachings of God and take credit for them, you know, we would not, as parents do well, to take them and take it out of the Word and say that we are the source of authority.

Even if you're pushing them the biblical truth, they need to know, thus saith the Lord. Pastors, husbands, how are you doing at equipping your wife to be able to read, understand, and apply the Word?

If the mother's law is supposed to be God's Word, pastor, shepherd, dad, husband, how are you doing at equipping your wife to be able to take the Bible and to make application of it?

You know, we all have seen at times and we all could talk about a preacher or somebody who just totally takes the Word of God out of context and uses it for their own desires, but we don't desire to be that in our homes either.

We want to rightly handle the Word of God. So I'm not saying you need to sign your wife up for online college and say, dear, I signed you up, you can go to this school, but I am saying that maybe some basic teaching in the Word would help her.

Give her some study tools and to talk to her about it, to help her, give her what she needs and not answer her questions, make Bible talking conversations a regular part of your family, answer questions when she comes to you, don't make her feel dumb when she doesn't know anything.

What is one of the biggest obstacles to us learning the Bible? That we're just, we don't want to look dumb, right? I mean, if you just, we don't want to ask somebody, hey, I really don't know, you know, what happened in here and what that's about and we should let our wives trust in us enough where they can come to us and say, I know I'm supposed to be able to show somebody from the Bible how you're eternally secure, but I can't.

Could you help me? You know, that would be a wonderful thing. And then we go, we got the law of the mother we looked at and that's just showing that it's coming from God through the dad and through the mom and then instruction in the way of life.

[12:39] It says here that, that we should, in verse number 20, the next chapter here, next verse, it says, for the commandment is a lamp and the law is light and the reproofs of instruction are a way of life.

So this charge to be faithful is a way of life. In Deuteronomy 11, 18 through 20, somebody's going to read that here a second, but it tells them what they should do and it really shows how important keeping the word of God in front of them is.

Who's got Deuteronomy 11? Brother John, please read those for us. All right.

This passage of Scripture gets referenced quite often in the Bible because we go back to it when we're talking about keeping the word of God in front of our children and people and I've asked you before, have you seen it before at a Jewish home right there in the doorpost?

If we go out, when you're looking, you go to homes, you see it. But you've probably also seen pictures of them with a box on their head and on their forearms and taking this passage of Scripture very literally.

[14:04] They take that portion of Scripture, roll it up, and put it in that thing that's on their forehead or on their arms. So it says, lay the words up in your heart and in your soul. Bind them on your hands, frontlets between your eyes.

Teach your children, speak when you sit in your house, when they wake up in the doors of your house. And it's a complete culture that your kids and every little thing that's going on is learning of God's faithfulness and who He is.

So how's some application for us today? We spend time in the Word, devotions, podcasts, in church, talking to friends about it, teaching the Word of God. I would say, let our actions teach it that in the movement of our hands and what we're doing, our children ought to learn what's going on.

So if you're making a car for a Pinewood Derby or if you're building something in the backyard, that in that physical action they've been doing, protecting your eyes and showing your sons what you look at and talking to them about what you see and how important your eyes are to them, make sure they're grateful and aware of the purposes every day when they wake up, reminding our wives and our children this is a new day.

We should be grateful. This is a new day and this day has a purpose and it's God's glory. And then let our house be a place that God's truth reigns and it's taught. You know, it says we sit down and we speak with the children.

[15:25] There's horrible numbers about it that says that the dad spends an average of like seven minutes a day with their children that we never sit down and have conversations, that there's not the family dinner sitting down and how you eat your suppers between you and God.

But apparently, according to the Bible, at some point there's supposed to be some sitting down and there's supposed to be some talking at some point. And we don't allow for that. We're always on the go and we're always moving and if we want to be men who are faithful in our homes and people here that are teaching our children, we've got to go about that.

This way of life that we're creating it said of Timothy that he not only knew Paul's doctrine, he knew his manner of life. And so it's unavoidable. You're creating a culture in your home. It's already been created there.

And what a great testimony as a parent that all the things that your child's learning about the Word of God, they would have an illustration inside of the home. Kyle said, I dare you the night to go a whole night without using your kids as an illustration.

I can do it. But I hope that someday that Thatcher has a hard time talking about any biblical truth where he doesn't think about an illustration in the home.

[16:35] I hope that he's getting a lot of them. And I pray and I ask that you pray for me you know about that. I want that to be the case. We have four whole books in the Bible about the life of Christ.

You may not know much about your earthly father, about Jesus, what would God be like on earth? We know. Jesus, four books about him, completely about the life and store the death, burial, resurrection there.

And then also, we have examples here in the church. We have men that are older, that have been parenting longer, that have been husbands longer. We ought to look to them and ask for advice and wisdom and hope they'll give us some guidance.

Let me give you some reasons here for faithfulness. Better yet, verses number 23 and number 24 give you some reasons for faithfulness here. For the commandment is a lamp and the law is a light and reproofs of instruction are the way of life to keep thee from the evil woman from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman that the word of God and our faithfulness to it helps us stay faithful to our family and to our wives.

And so how does the faithfulness to the word of God? It says that it's a lamp, it's a light showing us where we should go. It also keeps us from the evil woman, it's protection as we obey these commandments.

[17:47] We know it real easy for Luther, don't we David? That it's the best thing for Luther to listen to David. It's what will make the best life for him, he'll produce the most joy in his life, and it'll also give him guidance.

It's the exact same for us dads that we have a father and it's true. I was a college student and Aaron Bayshore took me over to Kevin White's house. Both are missionaries here with us.

And when I walked out of Kevin White's house, I went to get in my car and there was a little note that was there. And I got in my car and I opened up the note and the note said, I live in an apartment so-and-so.

I saw you get out of your car. If you would like to have a good time, come and knock on the door. And so I'm sitting there, glad the teenager's upstairs, incriminate myself. But I sat there for a second thinking about this note, you know.

I'm a good college student. I'm a Christian college student. I didn't go looking for this. I'm not out at a place looking for this. I avoid places like this because I don't know what I would do in those temptations, you know, and I don't want to put myself in that.

[18:52] And here I am and I'm facing it. And I thank the Lord that in that moment there was clarity there where He said, you know, this looks like it might be fun and simple and nobody would ever know about it, but Trent, you know better.

This would be complicated. This would be painful and God would be very much aware of what you would do. And so that's a pretty bizarre story and it's like the only one I have, you know, and in all these years and I'm with Brother Austin, you know, you don't have women just throwing themselves at you.

And back then, but in times of chains, that temptation, it's just a click away, you know. TV was here for the songs. I didn't ask Robert to set it up just for the illustration. But that whole scenario which used to be like real foreign for us is now a mouse click away.

It's a remote click away. And this thing's blind. It doesn't know how ugly we are, you know. It doesn't, it's not a respecter of person. And so now we deal with it all the time through that.

It's this lust. It's acting upon lust. Knowing it's available and then acting upon it. And it doesn't change in what form or shape that it is.

[20:00] It is a lust that is either act upon that brings destruction or it's something that we avoid there in that temptation. So he guides our steps. It's a guard. It says that at night.

Isn't that a wonderful word there? That it keeps us that it's something that guards us. Psalms 119 and 105. Somebody read that for us if you will. Psalms 119 and 105.

Your Bible drill students aren't winning here. Anybody have it? Thy word is a lamp. I think you just quoted it. You knew it. And so we continue to look at it and we're told here that the Bible tells us that it's also a guard at night to us.

It's somebody you can trust. You know, if we're in the military and it's your turn to sleep, you probably don't sleep well knowing I'm standing there protecting you. You probably need somebody a little more scared.

I mean, a little less scared. Somebody a little more strong in what they're doing. But the Bible tells us that we set this thing on the mantle and we go to bed at night saying my relationship without word is protecting me.

[21:00] That I don't have to worry about all this temptation running upon me and overtaking my fort here. I am hiding myself. And so we set it there and it brings security to us. As a ship, there's always danger in our life but there's other times that we're even more prone to the shipwreck.

And the Bible teaches young men in here that as young men that you're more prone to the shipwreck of lust. Until you have a life that says let us avoid fornication let every man have his own wife.

It says that by that time before that from the time you're like oh wow girls are pretty. You know? I don't know what cooties are but I'll take a truckload of them. You know? Between that point in life and to the point that you have a wife that's there to help you the Bible teaches us that it's a harder time in our lives.

And so also we learn here we need an external source of life. Ben I guess didn't make it he was looking for a ride but we were talking about Thomas we're talking about what the conscience can do for a person. But we're told that inside of us no matter how good a dad you had what kind of morals you learned and how strong you may think your conscience is that we need an external source of life to tell us that I'm not going to mess up I'm a good old boy I'm not going to mess up I had a good upbringing no the Bible says you need the light you need God's word to guide you.

It's a portable thing you can go with you wherever you want it's not bound you know you don't just have the light here in decision making but the word of God and your decision making as a light wants to go with you to work when you make decisions it wants to be there when you have conversations with your kids and with your wife it goes where you do and it ought to be guiding it and look at your life and look at where the word of God is not touching it you know where you go you make decisions without that there all the time the strange woman here Proverbs 5 5 and 6 the strange woman brings pain the agenda of a strange woman is specifically to draw us away from the path of life who has that Proverbs 5 5 and 6 yes sir Paul so one we talked about building inside a way of life for our children depending on the word of God and faithful now this terminology being used here is a strange woman who wants to take you off a path and lead you away it only has one purpose what is the purpose in that woman it's to pull you away she has no conscience of her sinfulness

[23:23] Proverbs 30 20 somebody want to read that for us she is not conscious of that of what she's doing at times what's that say go ahead Kenan she doesn't even know sometimes they're not even aware of what they're doing in here she doesn't care about your family if it's a literal person they don't care about it or if it's a person inside of a box you ought to think that person she hates my family she hates the path I'm on she hates my life she wants to pull me down that when she's done she's destroying my life somebody will click on her and on that website and she'll ruin another one it's just nothing to her there it may cost you verse 26 here it says for by means of a horse woman a man is brought to a piece of bread and adulteress will hunt for the precious life and what I believe we're seeing here in the scripture here it says you may get a a prostitute you may get this woman at a piece of bread it doesn't cost you anything up front in the moment but it ends up costing you everything that it seems like it's an easy buy in but it brings destruction to you adultery was a capital offense in the bible in ancient Israel and the reason was it was idolatry because that having a woman outside of your family outside of your wife was to say that you know better than God and it's a worshiper and by doing that you've committed idolatry against God which means this that this lust that's acted upon either in adultery with a woman or in pornography is worship it is to say that my desire for you is greater than my desire to live out what God has the pleasure that you bring me is greater than the pleasure found in God's word that the beauty and the wonder found in the gospel is not equal to the beauty that I find in you which means that if you worship yourself into the problem the only way to get out of it is to worship your way out is that you have to look at the word of God and say that her beauty does not compare to what's right for me in life and that what she offers is nothing in comparison to what God offers for me and here's some excuses for unfaithfulness here verses 25 lust not after her beauty in thine heart neither let her take thee with her eyelids for by means of a horsewoman a man is brought to a piece of bread and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life can a man take fire in his bosom and a cloth not be burned can one go up on hot coals and his feet not be burned so he that goeth to his neighbor's wife whosoever touches her shall not be innocent men do not despise a thief if he still dissatisfies so when he is hungry but if he be found he shall restore sevenfold and he shall give all of his substance to the house first of all the excuse we have is that nothing that is that this is hidden that nobody knows about what's going on it says here that her beauty lust not after her beauty in thine heart can I tell you in here that nothing can be hidden in your heart if you're playing hide and go seek your heart is not a good place to hide because whatever is in your heart is coming out at some point it does not make a good place to hide something so the lie that you're hiding what's going on from everybody is a complete lie

> I mean that you're hiding this in your heart there's a Calvin and Hobbes comic strip and the mom says to Calvin it's time for a bath and she's looking around the house and he's laying in the bathtub and she said she'll never look for me here that's a pretty good hiding place don't you think that's a really good hiding place but eventually does she look in the bathtub probably so it's a comic strip I don't know how the story ends alright but it ends up like that so whatever is in your heart is going to come out and it's already coming out you're not hiding it as much as you do your wife may not see it but she feels it she may not see your love for somebody else but she feels your lack of love there in the home and so despite this idea verses 27 and 29 which I read it says despite what you think you're getting by with you cannot take that on you you can't walk upon fires of coal without being burned you cannot take it in it cannot happen which means that if you think what you're saying is right you can get by with this without being touched until you have a bigger problem because now you've just disproved the Bible and everything else is not true so you don't want you're not right and secondly you don't want to be right about this the Bible is always true and then everyone does this that's what we tell ourselves verse 30 especially single guys

I mean you just really feel like we have a past because you think everybody does this you know everybody gives in to that temptation sometimes as older men we make or married men we make light of it and say that we went through it and so it's okay that you're failing or that you're giving into that temptation but that's not the case in verse 30 here it said that in the verse it says men do not despise a thief if he still dissatisfies his own soul when he is hungry so what's happening is if a guy has no other way of getting food then apparently we don't think it's such a bad thing for him to go steal something but if we find out that joker stole food from you and he had food at home then he has to repay seven fold almost everything he has can I tell you married men in here if you go and you steal affection from another woman online or offline that it's a huge crime because you're not going around hungry you have food at home you have a wife to care for you at home we don't run around like pagans who are hungry that have to just eat and crave whatever we want and in single men in here you may not have a wife but you have the satisfier of our soul in Jesus so you don't run around like zombies looking for blood and saying it's okay because I have no other source this is the only way what you have is sufficient there and so and then here it's just the phase in verse 33 says but whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding he doeth and destroyeth his own soul and a wound and dishonor shall he get and his reproach shall not be wiped away it's not a phase that you're going through that you'll get out of it will stay with you and it will haunt you and it will bring wounds into your marriage into your relationship and so don't believe that and it doesn't hurt anyone is this another lie that we're told that Proverbs 27 forces it bring shame upon our wives and also upon ourselves

God loves us despite our unfaithfulness to him and the example of the prophet Hosea and his wife Gomer Gomer leaves him and becomes a prostitute and God tells Hosea to take her back which is a picture of God's love in spite of their unfaithfulness here in our last warning tonight verse 35 he will not regard any ransom neither will he rest content though he may give us many gifts there's no ransom there's nothing you can pay for what you have done in your unfaithfulness to God in your marriage or in your singleness but that's really bad news but we're told in Romans 3 24 through 26 that even though there's not a ransom to make up for our sexual sins but Jesus Christ has been a ransom for us being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood to declare his righteousness for the remissions of sin are passed through the forbearance of God to declare I say at this time his righteousness that you may be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus

I know the ladies are done but that was a lot of bad news about us of being unfaithful in our hearts and there's nothing ransom there's nothing we can do to pay back but our savior has paid a ransom and he's the justifier so you don't leave your head all beat up saying I can't do this it's already been justified it's been forgiven he wants to work in and through your life single men in here one of the greatest challenges you have I want to serve God but then I fail and then you say because I failed now I can't serve God and there's this two or three month waiting period where you keep beating yourself and saying that I don't deserve this and that I shouldn't get to serve God and you need to go and repent in your heart and then you need to accept the forgiveness he gives and you need to serve the God of heaven because he's been dealing with unfaithful people from the very beginning and he justifies us and he redeems us by his blood there this message was recorded at Vision Baptist Church in Alfred, Georgia for more information log on to www.visionbaptist.com where you can find our service times location contact information and more audio and video recordings