

Who Will Keep Covenant?

REVIEW

As you should know by now, there is a clear theme within the message of Malachi. When the law of God is altered or ignored within the people of God, spiritually...they fall apart. Now, why do they fall apart spiritually? *Is it because we need the law to be saved?* No. *Is it because we need the law because it motivates us to do good works?* No. We need the law because it **shows us who God is** and it **reveals to us our guilt**. When the law is lost, reverence of God is lost. Anthony walked us through this chain in the first sermon. When we hear the law → **we see our guilt** → through our guilt, we see **what we deserve** → in seeing what we deserve, we see the mercy God provides → and in seeing His mercy we understand **God's love for us**. That's the goal today: **to better understand God's love for us**. But one of the main reasons why we all do not see God's love for us in the way we should is because we are not clearly seeing what the law demands and what our law breaking says about us.

PREFACE

Brothers and sisters, I pray that our time in the book of Malachi **wakes us up to the law of God and that it wakes us up to the mercy shown to us in Christ**. I don't know if the message of Malachi has set in for you yet, but it would be **detrimental** to miss it. This message in Malachi is **a wake up call**. It is a call for us to wake up and see ourselves rightly. When we stop seeing the demands of the law we stop seeing the mercy we need. When we ignore the law of God the inevitable result is **ingratitude**. My friends, please understand this: God is not trying to waste your time with a history lesson. The point of today's text is not just for you to see how faithless Israel was. This is what He wants you to see: **He wants you to see how faithful He is**. It's utterly clear with what we have seen so far, God wanted Israel to understand His faithfulness & love...**but they weren't seeing it!** So how would God cause them to see this: **they needed to see how unfaithful they had been to God & how in spite of their faithless acts, God was still faithful to them**.

In our text today, there is a word that is used to define & mark the actions of the Israelites. It is the word "faithless." This word "faithless" shows up five times. And when you read that word "faithless" I want you to think of it as "**betrayal**." That's probably the best way for us to understand the word "faithless" in the context of these verses. And the irony of what is brought against the Israelites here is the fact that this is exactly what the people were thinking about God. They felt like **He had betrayed them**. And because they looked at God in that way, all sorts of evil began to flow out of them as a result. But please

remember: if we are to see what God intends for us to see in this text, **that He is a faithful God**, we need to see how unfaithful we too have been to God. Let's go to the text:

Malachi 2:10-16

¹⁰Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we **faithless** to one another, **profaning the covenant** of our fathers? ¹¹**Judah has been faithless**, and **abomination** has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has **profaned** the sanctuary of the LORD, which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

¹²May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

¹³And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because He **no longer regards** the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴But you say, "**Why does He not?**" Because the LORD was **witness** between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been **faithless**, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵Did He not make them **one**, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be **faithless** to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶"For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be **faithless.**"

INTRO

Imagine this scenario. A pastor has a wife and some children. His home is suitable for his family. He is paid fairly and can adequately provide for his family's needs. He pastors at an average sized church and begins to see that his church is not nearly as big as the other surrounding religious gatherings. As he looks out at other religious gatherings, he sees that their leaders are more wealthy, more loved by their congregants, and they are more respected in the community. He looks at the Mormon Temple down the street and sees how incredible the structure is, how happy the people seem, and how much more the Mormon leaders seem to be blessed, growing, and thriving. He sees all of this and decides that he needs to make a change. He starts to think that if he were just able to unite himself with what he sees in them that he could have the success he longs for. He presents this idea to his wife and she passionately opposes it. This is a problem. And so the pastor comes up with the best solution he can think of. He needs a new wife. He looks at his wife of 20yrs and decides that she is getting in his way. He then divorces his wife, tells her she needs to move out, and seeks to find a Mormon wife. He thinks that if he has some sort of connection to a community that seems to be blessed that he too will find the blessings he desires. And so, after divorcing his wife, he finds and marries a Mormon woman. He doesn't evangelize her. They just get married and move on with life. After the wedding, that next

Sunday, the pastor walks in with his new wife and sits her down in the front row and begins the service like normal. If that happened here, would any of you have a problem with that?

The indignation that many of you would feel would seem as though you could barely contain yourself. You'd think, "***Who could do such a thing? Who could be so selfish? So ignorant to what is clearly wrong?***" And you would be **just** to be angry at this display of betrayal. This treachery. What this man had effectively said to his wife was this: "You can't give me the good things I want anymore. I'm going to go get them somewhere else." Breaking the covenant he made with his wife wasn't a big deal to him. As soon as he decided that she cannot give him the things he wants in this life, the deal was off. And this is what Israel has been doing to God in this text.

TEXT

The book began with God affirming His love for the Israelites saying, "*I have loved you.*" And how did Malachi say the people respond to that truth: "*How have You loved us?*" The ignorance that comes from these people seems just utterly confusing. These are a people who have been **rescued out of exile** and **restored to their land**. *They should know* that God loves them. Seeing this should be baffling. Reading up until this point you should have been thinking: "Why is this happening? ***Why are the people acting this way?***" Well, what we saw in the text last week reveals a major flaw with what is happening within the Israelites. **No one is teaching God's law**. His law was being watered down to a thing that is trite and trivial to the people. And as you know, a **low view** of the law will produce a **low view of God**. It brought these people to the point that they did not see the merit in honoring God as He deserves. In last week's text, Malachi lays out the way in which they have not honored God. They had not honored God as they should and yet they responded by saying: "How have we despised Your name?" **They're not getting it!**

You see, we have a people here that had been given the covenantal promise of love and faithfulness from God for those who love Him and keep His commandments. And God kept that promise. That is what He is saying here at the onset of the book when He says, "*I have loved you.*" God begins this book with a declaration that any creature on this earth should long to hear: "*I have loved you.*" God did not say this to Israel *because they were great*. He didn't say this to Israel *because they were faithful*. No. Deuteronomy 7 tells us why God loved them, "*It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set His love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that He swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*" **The very nature of God is faithful**. And He had **proven that** in keeping His promise to Israel. God was faithful...but Israel was faithless. Israel was treacherous. Israel broke the

covenant that they made with God. They had betrayed the covenant that they had sworn to keep and were now also breaking their marriage covenants. Traitors to the covenant of God.

What the people of Israel were doing is not much different than that scenario I explained to you earlier. The people began to feel that God had not made good on His word to bless them because as they looked out at the other pagan nations, things seemed to be more prosperous for them. They seemed to be more blessed. And so they thought that if they could be connected with those people that it would be beneficial for them financially. So what they did was divorce their wives of Israel, took wives for themselves from pagan religions, and then brought them back into Judah. This was an utter betrayal to God. They had been instructed against such things. And so, this is what Malachi begins to recount for the people starting in v.10 when he says, *“¹⁰Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?”*

The treachery of Israel was so great because of who they betrayed. Israel was the offspring of God. They have **one** Father & **one** Creator God, but they had been unfaithful to Him. *They were a people with no name*. Unknown. They were nothing before the Lord claimed them as His own. And it was a great act of kindness that God would make a covenant with such a people. And yet they seem to care very little for the covenant they had with Him. In v.10 where it says, *“Why then are we **faithless to one another...**”* This word “faithless” would have been heard like this: “Why do you **deal treacherously** with one another” or *“**Why are you traitors?**”* God was calling them traitors, both to Him and one another. And this idea of *“**profaning the covenant of our fathers**”* carries the idea of treating the covenant with contempt. It is essentially this: they treated the covenant they had with God as something that was beneath their consideration and worthless. They knew that this act was not pleasing to God as well as the fact that it was an awful thing to do to their own wives! They knew God forbid this from 1 Kings 11 when Solomon took wives of foreign gods for himself. 1 Kings 11:2, *“They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, **because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.**””*

These people were willingly introducing a spiritually destructive element into the covenant community. This abomination was happening amongst the people of Israel. This was the people of God. This is Jerusalem. The place where God had said in 1 Kings 8:29, *“My name shall be there.”* And because we know that God dwells in and among His people, Malachi calls Israel here God’s dwelling place, His sanctuary. And they are profaning this sanctuary. In v.11 he goes on to say that *“**Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in***

Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has **profaned** the sanctuary of the LORD, which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god."

This abomination was happening amongst the people of Israel. This was the **people of God**. This is Jerusalem. The place where God had said, "My name shall be there." And what were these people making of God's name with their actions? They were profaning His name and betraying Him before the world! We know that God dwells in and among His people. Malachi himself refers to Israel here as God's dwelling place, His sanctuary. But they are profaning this sanctuary. They were betraying the covenantal law given to them through Moses in their pursuit of daughters of a foreign god. Not only were they betraying the covenantal law that was given through Moses, *but they were also betraying the covenant of their marriages*. You see, in both of these covenants, God had a unique role in the foundation of these covenants. **Who instituted the covenant of marriage? God. Who instituted the Mosaic covenant? God. He was at work** in both of these covenants and His very presence and promise legitimized both of these covenants. And so here is the offense: the way that these people broke their covenants **seemed as though they simply disregarded God**. The people broke these covenants as if it would not affect Him at all and as if He were not God at all.

You see, it is a small thing to make a promise to your dog that you will be home by 6pm to let him out and feed him. If you break that promise and return at 7pm, there is no consequence, and quite frankly, it might make no difference because dogs can't tell time. But if you made that promise to your child to pick them up from school, and you were an hour late, the weight of that broken promise would be much greater. It would be great because your child might feel unloved and possibly endangered. The value of the promise is tied to the one the promise was made with. And the people here are guilty of such disregard towards God.

The people of Israel were marrying the daughters of foreign gods. Jewish women were being scorned by their former husbands in pursuit of wives outside the people of God. The two things they are being charged with are: 1) taking wives of pagan nations & 2) divorcing the wives they had from Israel. It is in both of these things that they are described as ones who are **faithless** and **profane the covenant**. They had betrayed their God and they had betrayed their wives. With their actions against God and their wives, it was as if they said this: "**I want the blessings that another god can give.**" And so the covenant of God's law and the marriage covenant were inconveniences to them. They saw no merit in keeping covenant with God because to them, He could not and would not give them the blessings they wanted.

This betrayal of God should be incredibly obvious at this point. But the reality is, this is just half of the offense. The prophet brings before the people a second thing. He says this in v.13, "¹³And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping

and groaning because He **no longer regards** the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴But you say, “**Why does He not?**” Do you see what is happening here?

The people clearly sensed that God had rejected their worship—because he no longer paid attention to [their] offerings or accepted them. **But they didn't think they were doing anything wrong.** It's almost like they were utterly oblivious to the offense they brought before God. As we have already seen earlier in the book, the people seemingly respond with great ignorance towards their offense. Think back to the example I gave you about the pastor. Imagine in spite of everything he does to bring prosperity and success to himself, he doesn't see his church grow or gain any of the things he was hoping to acquire. What would you say if you saw him weeping, crying, and groaning towards God because God hasn't blessed his efforts? You would say, “How do you expect good things from God, when you do everything the opposite of what He commands?” **You would think they are crazy. That is the response of the people here!** They respond in v.14 saying, “Why won't God accept our offering? What have we done wrong?” Their response seems to be one of genuine disbelief that their acts of piety have laid no claim to the blessing of God. But guys, think back to Anthony's second message. **What sort of sacrifices were they making to God? They were bringing their sick & lame animals as offerings!** They weren't even bringing the appropriate sacrifices and have mixed in these other forms of betrayal as well. They must have had such a low view of God's worth to think this was acceptable. To weep and groan because they feel that God has not honored their covenant.

Their sorrow and tears were not over the offense such ingratitude brought to their God, but their sorrow and tears came because the only favor they sought were in the gifts, **not the Giver.** This was not a godly sorrow that leads to repentance, but rather a worldly sorrow that leads to death. It was clear by this response that their betrayal said this, “I don't care who gives me the things I want, and I don't care how I get them. **I just want to have them.** Regardless of the cost. And regardless of who suffers.” The disregard of their marriages revealed their disregard of their covenant with God. They thought they could divorce the wife of their youth, marry the daughters of foreign gods, live amongst the people of God with these pagan wives, profane the sanctuary of the Lord, and then **bring offerings to God expecting to be blessed.** The level of contempt for the covenant of God is earth shattering. They were treating YHWH as if He were no different than the pagan idols. “JUST ANOTHER DEITY I NEED TO APPEASE TO GET THE BLESSINGS I WANT.” That is how they looked at their God! And yet, still blind to their betrayal, they weep and groan over the fact that God does not regard their offering. It was in this that they embodied the words of the prophet Isaiah when he said, “*This people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from*

Me..." This is evidenced in the fact that they would deem to ask God, "Why won't you accept this offering?"

But Malachi answers their question. ¹⁴But you say, "**Why does He not?**" Because the LORD was **witness** between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have **been faithless**, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵Did He not make them **one**, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?" Do you see what Malachi is saying here? It's almost as if he speaks for God saying, "*Why won't I accept this offering? **I was at your wedding**. I was there! You have **betrayed** the woman **I united you with**. You have been faithless to her and in doing so, you have been faithless to Me.*" Malachi is showing us here that God saw this marital abandonment as **equal to abandoning a vow to God Himself**. These people were seemingly missing the point to God's command regarding who they are to marry & the marital covenant itself. It's obvious they were missing the point because of what Malachi says continuing on in v.15, "*And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*" ¹⁶"For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts." Malachi is reminding the people why **it was important to God** that they not take wives from foreign gods. God was seeking godly offspring. Remember Abraham? God promised offspring to him and his wife. But what does Abraham do? He sought to obtain God's blessing by circumventing God's own plan for him by taking Hagar as a wife (Gen 16:1-6). "The blessing isn't coming fast enough God!" The people were essentially doing the same thing. Seeking to obtain good things without God.

Do you see the destruction that has come through their betrayal of God? And they are ignorant to it. Their pursuit of the blessings they desired caused them to **betray their God** and show a callous disregard for the wife of their youth. The divorcing of their wives was a practical denial of the very things they pledged to provide. The pledge to: devotion, care, companionship, protection, provision, and love **all died** with this selfish act. In God's law, husbands were bound to provide for and protect their wives and yet they were sending them away. This is what Malachi means in v.16 when he says, ¹⁶"For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts." In the OT, "covering someone with your garment" was a metaphor for protection. In Ez 16:8, God describes His love for Israel using the symbolism of a man and a wife. As the protector and provider, men are supposed to "cover" their wives. Yet these women were being sent away. Sent away from the one who swore to protect

them. This act from the people was bringing violence upon the Israelite wives and in turn, **completely betraying** the oath they swore to their wives and to God.

LAW

This betrayal just seems so obvious, doesn't it? And it may be quite tempting to be **shocked** by how this could be possible, but we would do so at the expense of ignoring what we see when we look in the mirror of God's law. In the mirror of God's law, **you are a traitor**. Your actions would be marked by **betrayal**. You too have betrayed the covenant of God. While the covenant that God made with Israel was indeed specific to those people, you too are under God's covenant. If you bear the image of God, you are born under the law of God. You are **bound** to His commands. The covenant of God's law that speaks the commands of God, speaks the same benediction to you: **do this and live**. Just as the people were reminded that they have one God and one Father you too should be reminded that you have one God and one Father. Believer, your God found you to be a child of wrath under the care of your first father, the devil. And what did He do? In Christ He gave you the right to become sons & daughters. **But how have you shown your gratitude?** Through faithfulness or betrayal? Malachi charged Judah with profaning the sanctuary of the Lord because they brought in wives from foreign gods into the community. I would ask you, how many spiritually destructive things have you allowed into your minds & into your own homes? *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?"* The Holy Spirit of God dwells within you, but how often do you betray your God and grieve His Holy Spirit with your sin? The prophet Malachi was revealing to these people the fact that they had been utterly ignorant to their own sin. They carried on with life without a thought of conviction in regards to their sin. How many sins do you commit that never prick your conscience?

My friends, we are not free from the guilt of betrayal that we see in the Israelites. We too have shamefully had the same thought as these people: ***"Breaking covenant with God is not a big deal."*** It's the same as saying this, "Sin is not a big deal." We have all turned a blind eye to our own sin. We've all thought too little of our betrayal against God. ***Why is this act so offensive to God?*** It's the same reason you are offended when someone breaks their promise to you. You aren't mad that someone is just bad at keeping covenants. You are upset by the fact that when they break this promise/agreement with you, **it says something about how much they value or respect you**. We diminish God's value in this way. We declare to Him and others that they don't deserve your loyalty. This utterly

offends God because He is the only one worthy of your loyalty. The God who has given you life and breath is worthy of every bit of your life and breath and yet **what loyalty do you offer Him?**

What is so **offensive** about your God that you would not be utterly faithful to Him? What is so **terrible** about your God that He is good to you and you repay Him with betrayal? He is not some wicked dictator who is unjust and evil towards you. Is He not good? The Psalms repeatedly tell us that He is good to all. Jesus told us that the rain falls on the just and the unjust. God allows good things to come to all even though all of us deserve nothing good whatsoever. Why do we become weary of doing what is good and righteous? Why is it that our patience and faithfulness runs dry? We betray God because we don't believe He will be faithful to give what He promises.

The heart of the people that caused them to reply saying, "*How have you loved us?*" is present in you as well brothers and sisters. You too, in your flesh, declare: "***I want the blessings that another god can give.***" Every sin that you commit declares this: "***I want the gifts that another god can offer me.***" The god of wealth, the god of pleasure, the god of entertainment, and many others. You see, the problem isn't in the fact that you just aren't very good at keeping covenants, you keep lots of other covenants. When we see an agreement that can give us what we desire, **we will keep that covenant**.. Just like the Israelites, your false god is revealed in the covenants you do try to keep. The covenant of feeding the betterment of your career instead of your soul. The covenant of seeking exaltation over humility and knowledge of God. The covenant of making time for entertainment at the expense of spending time with the Lord. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. **Where is your treasure?** What do you faithfully commit yourself to?

Of all the things that we are faithful to, God has not received the faithfulness from us that He deserves. We all are guilty of breaking our covenant with God to get what we want. Guilty of betrayal. Betrayal to our God. We too have not kept covenant with our God. We too have sought the gifts that other gods can give to us. We too, in our pursuit of our idols, have dealt treacherously with others. They have become victims along the path we tread to obtain our idols. ***And to what avail?*** There is no good thing to obtain in this world that has not come from the hand of God. What good is there in obtaining your idols. They are false gods that only offer counterfeit blessings. These people didn't feel as though they were being blessed by God. They looked out into the world and thought that they were getting the short end of the stick. They see others prospering in ways they think they should be. They thought that life is easier outside of Israel. Life is better outside the people of God. Maybe you have had similar thoughts. "It's so hard being a Christian. Doing the right thing

just doesn't seem to get me anywhere." It is the thought that honoring God will not give you the good things you want. And so you betray your God as you seek the blessings and pleasures of the world.

Far too often we are like Abraham and the people in our text today. We seek blessings from God *but through our own means?* God promises that good will come from telling the truth, but we all lie. God promises to care for you just as He does for the birds of the air, but you stress and worry every day. God has told you that you are richly blessed in Christ, but still you grumble each day because you feel that you are not getting what you want out of life. And so every sin you commit, is a declaration to God and to all who see, that the good things you want in this life should be obtained apart from God. Our sin declares this, "I want the blessings that another god can give."

GOSPEL

And so, what are Malachi's words to Israel who had betrayed their God? "So guard yourselves in your spirit, and **do not be faithless.**" Basically this: **stop betraying God.** What hope do you have to respond to that command in a way that will fix the covenant you have broken? **You cannot fix this broken covenant.** You cannot **unbreak** a broken covenant. You cannot **reverse** your betrayal. Brothers and sisters, **we must repent of our betrayal.** Everything within your flesh may tell you that this sin is too great for God's mercy. This is what 1 John 1:9 tells us, "**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**"

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise

The glories of my God and King, the **triumphs of His grace**

[What is the triumph of His grace?]

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;

His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me

Do not let your flesh lie about the blood of Christ this morning! **Rejoice in Him that loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood!** We must come to our God in humility and seek His mercy. We must come to God as we are, as covenant breakers. Do not seek to make another covenant. another promise to God. To do so is a fool's errand. You see, any covenant that depends on our faithfulness will always end in brokenness. This is why we needed a new covenant. One that is not dependent on our faithfulness, but rather, **God's faithfulness. This is why Christ came!** If you have felt the guilt of your betrayal, there is comfort available to you today. There is comfort in the Gospel this morning because

though we have been faithless, we have a God who is faithful to keep His promises. But how has God been faithful to keep His promises?

Our God knew – that if there was to be any hope for us to be saved, we would need a Savior who is **faithful**. Not one who could be tempted away so easily by the deceitfulness of sin. Not one from the sons of men, but the Son of God Himself, Jesus. He would be tempted in every way, yet without sin. The devil himself would come to tempt Jesus to betray the mission the Father had given Him to institute the new covenant. He would tempt our Lord with ease and comfort, but our Savior would be faithful to resist the devil and remain steadfast in the task set before Him.

Our God knew of our great need for a **faithful** Savior. One who would not shrink away when faced with rejection. He came amongst His own people and they did not receive Him. Was He discouraged & went back to His throne on high? No my friends, our Savior travailed and persisted with people who were just as foolish and unfaithful as we are. He was not only patient with us, but He loved us. He prayed for us. He prayed for faithless people like us. Even the apostle Peter, who would deny our Lord, Jesus prayed for. He prayed that his faith would not fail despite his denial.

Our God knew of our great need for a faithful **Servant**. One who was faithful to God. One who could offer to God the faithfulness He deserves. A **Servant** who uphold the demands of the law on our behalf. One that would fulfill the laws that we had broken. One who would offer to the God the faithfulness He deserves. One who wash the dirty feet of His disciples. One who would consider the needs of others before Himself. We needed a faithful Servant who *“though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped...”* A faithful Servant who would empty *“Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form,”* one who would humble *“Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* One who would not seek to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.

Our God knew of our great need for a faithful **Bridegroom**. A bridegroom who will pledge that neither *“height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from”* His love. He does not need to grow in love for you, nor can He lose any love that He has for you. If you are in Christ, He has set His love upon you. It is a decided thing. Nothing can happen that He has not foreseen. There is no new circumstance that will change His pledge of love. Nothing that will shock God to the point that He changes His

mind. He is immutable. Unchanging! There is no new sin that you can create that goes beyond the bounds of what Christ paid for.

Though we may be just like Gomer, and pursue other lovers, He will not leave us under the weight of our sin. Where Hosea purchased His bride with gold and silver, we have been redeemed through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. There are some who will love for a little while and then grow cold. There are some who will endure through a few tough trials, but then crumble under the pressure. **Not our Savior!** He is the cornerstone of our salvation. The person we rest all of our trust in for salvation because He will faithfully bear the weight of our great need. There are none that rival His fidelity and unchanging love. *“If we are faithless, He remains faithful— for He cannot deny Himself.”* From Bethlehem to Golgotha, you can see the proof that our Savior was faithful to the end. Not all the pains of death could shake His affections for His own. Though He was flogged and beaten, **His faithful love for us remained.** Though He was mocked as He hung on the cross to save Himself, He would not do so, because He was faithfully ensuring our salvation through His suffering. My friends, our Savior was faithful to the end. He was faithful to endure all of the wrath that we deserve. He suffered the hell that should come to traitors like us and was faithful to bear it all. He bore it all until He declared, **“It is finished!”**

We may have said with the Israelites, *“How have You loved us.”* Our God is so kind to remind us of how He has loved us from the book of Romans: **“God proves His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Yes, Christ died for us while we were still sinners. While we were still traitors & betraying Him. He does this because *“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”* The great faithfulness of God was placarded for all to see at Golgotha. At the cross, God’s love to sinful man was displayed. We had given God no reason to send a Redeemer, no reason to save. We had given Him every reason to abandon us. We had been *unfaithful* to our God. And yet, He is a God that gives grace and mercy. Though all hell would stand against Him, He would be faithful to His promise to send a Redeemer. Though we had not loved God as He deserves, **He still sent His Son to save sinners.** Christ went to the cross willingly to suffer the punishment of our sins. *“He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;*

*upon Him was the punishment **that brought us peace**, and by His wounds **we are healed.***

Simply put, Jesus went to the cross to take your place. He suffered **for you** my friends...He took your place of punishment so that you can have peace with God. Every sin was laid upon Jesus as if it were His own so you can be free! My friends, trust in the Savior, Christ Jesus. He is faithful. He is a solid rock that you can rest the salvation of your soul upon. He is immutable. Unchanging. There is no shifting or variation in His nature and character. His love does not fade or grow. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! And He is forever a faithful Savior of sinners. ***"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*** I pray that your hope of salvation is firmly set upon Jesus Christ.