FAITHFUL

Many years ago an elder and I were discussing a family in the community and he said, “They have been faithful members of the church for years.” I thought that odd, since I had been preaching there for over a year and had only seen them twice. It caused me to question the word “Faithful” and how it is used. While dictionaries sometimes are helpful to define words, they are not always accurate in biblical context. This is the dictionary definition: “having or showing true and constant support or loyalty. : deserving trust : keeping your promises or doing what you are supposed to do.” That is pretty good!

It might also be a good idea to read what the Bible says about it. I like this one particularly, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Cor. 10:13 ESV) How is God faithful? “He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.” What does that mean? YOU CAN DEPEND ON IT!

“But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.” (2 Thess. 3:3) This tells us that in our fight with evil, or the evil one, the Lord is on our side and we can depend on Him.

“Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.” (Heb. 3:5-6) Another word for “faithful” is “dependable.” That is what the scripture is telling us, Moses, like God, was “dependable.” Without it there is no “faithfulness.” (emphasis mine ES)