

A LOYAL CONGREGATION UNDER CHRIST'S LEADERSHIP

Note to the speaker:

Help audience appreciate that Jehovah requires loyalty of his servants. When contrasting cited Bible examples of loyalty and of disloyalty, emphasize that those who were loyal maintained a right relationship with God. Point out that those who remain loyal to Jehovah can count on his help

JEHOVAH HIGHLY FAVORS HIS LOYAL ONES (4 min.)

Loyalty is kindness that lovingly attaches itself to an object until its purpose in connection with that object is realized (*it-2* 280)

God deals loyally with loyal ones (2Sa 22:26)

Exemplified by way Jehovah dealt with his chief "loyal one," Jesus (Ps 16:10)

Resurrected Jesus and exalted him to His "right hand" (Ac 2:24-28, 31-36)

Placed Jesus as Head of the congregation (Eph 1:20-22; Col 1:18)

Loyal ones are recognized by Jehovah with favor, and he answers their prayers (Ps 4:3)

Because of their loyalty and their confidence in him, Jehovah guards their way and gives them his spirit (1Sa 2:9; Ac 5:32)

Good for us to appreciate what loyalty entails and how we can show it

EXAMPLES OF LOYALTY AND OF DISLOYALTY IN THE SCRIPTURES (17 min.)

Examining Bible examples of loyalty and of disloyalty to God can sharpen our understanding of godly loyalty

Jacob and Esau

Esau "despised the birthright," was more interested in self-gratification than in "sacred things" (Ge 25:34; Heb 12:16, 17)

He did not take seriously God's promises or his relationship with God; he was not spiritually-minded

Jacob had keen appreciation for sacred things, such as the birthright

Jacob's conduct and his attitude toward God's promises resulted in his receiving Jehovah's love (Ro 9:13)

He became an ancestor of Jesus Christ

Moses and Korah

Korah was disrespectful of Jehovah and his organizational arrangement (*w00* 8/1 10-11; *w97* 8/1 8-9)

He spoke abusively of those taking the lead and sought glory for himself (Nu 16:1-3; Jude 11)

Moses deeply respected Jehovah's word and authority, was humble and patient (Ex 18:17-19a, 24)

Although schooled in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, did not have an exaggerated opinion of himself (Nu 12:3; Ac 7:22)

As a faithful prophet, he foreshadowed Jesus (Ac 3:22, 23; Heb 3:1, 2, 5; *w84* 9/15 31)

Phinehas and Balaam

Balaam pursued a selfish course contrary to Jehovah's will, condoned fornication (Re 2:14)

Phinehas was loyal to Jehovah and zealous for the purity of God's congregation, regardless of the number or prominence of the offenders (Nu 25:6-9, 14, 15)

Recorded as an outstanding example of one devoted to righteousness (Ps 106:30, 31)

Jehovah made a covenant with him that the priesthood would remain in his line (Nu 25:10-13)

David and Saul

Saul pushed ahead presumptuously; he did not loyally adhere to Jehovah's word concerning Amalek and its king, Agag

Saul was rejected by God (1Sa 15:17-23)

David, a man agreeable to Jehovah's heart, displayed implicit trust and confidence in Jehovah

Unlike Saul, he humbly acknowledged his mistakes and repented of his gross sins (Ps 51:1-4)

He exhibited deep love for Jehovah and always showed the right heart condition (Ac 13:22)

Served as a forerunner of Jesus (Jer 23:5, 6; Mt 1:1)

HOW WE CAN SHOW LOYALTY TO CHRIST AND TO THE CONGREGATION (20 min.)

Loyal ones submit to theocratic arrangement (1Co 11:3)

Christ, as Head of Christian congregation, deserves the loyalty of all its members (Mt 23:10; Eph 5:23)

All in association with Christian congregation must show similar loyalty to God's arrangement (1Ti 2:8; Tit 1:8)

"Faithful and discreet slave" cares for earthly interests of congregation and is identified by work it does (Mt 24:45-47)

Faithful ones stick loyally to slave class, giving it full support (Mt 25:40; Ac 16:4, 5)

Loyal ones learn from examples in Scriptures (Ro 15:4)

God's loyal servants imitate spirit of Jacob and work hard to be spiritually-minded

Highly esteem and support sacred things, such as God's Word, the meetings, and the preaching work (*w*88 6/15 10-15)

Recognize that Christian congregation is God's instrument and that its purpose is to declare the excellencies of Jehovah (1Pe 2:9, 10)

Jehovah loves humble ones like Moses, and He gives them undeserved kindness (Ro 12:3; Jas 4:6)

Such ones do not promote themselves or become impatient (*w*00 8/1 12)

Guard against speaking abusively of Jehovah's servants and organizational arrangements

Respond to theocratic direction quickly (Heb 13:17)

Loyal Christians manifest spirit of Phinehas

Show loyalty to Jehovah's moral standards and uncompromisingly uphold spiritual purity of congregation (Col 3:5; 2Pe 2:15, 16; 3:11, 14)

Keep separate from the world and its ways (Jas 4:4)

Like David, loyal ones are wholehearted in their devotion to God

Unrelentingly wage spiritual warfare

Quick to exhibit tenderness and compassion to others (Eph 4:32; 1Pe 3:8)

Loyalty will move us to value our relationship with God highly, to serve him faithfully, and to face opposition fearlessly

Will help us develop the tested quality of our faith (1Pe 1:6, 7)

PROVING LOYAL TO CHRIST'S HEADSHIP BRINGS REWARDS (4 min.)

Appreciate benefits of loyalty to theocratic arrangement

Among many blessings is unity in the congregation, which makes for peace and good order (Ps 133:1; 1Co 14:33, 40)

Loyal Christian congregation stands in stark contrast to selfish, disloyal, and divided world of mankind

As prophesied, multitudes now recognize need for attaching themselves to spiritual Israel, the congregation of God (Zec 8:23; Re 7:9, 14, 15)

Always maintain close association with and deep respect for Jehovah's holy congregation

Be submissive to Christ, the Head of the congregation, and to the theocratic arrangement

Be assured that Jehovah and his Christ will always be loyal to their loyal ones (Ps 18:25; 97:10; Pr 2:8)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)