

FAITHFUL TO THE END!

By Keith Greer

My mind goes back to a very difficult day in June many years ago. A member of my family had just passed away. He was in his mid-eighties. Just about six weeks earlier I had seen him at my grandma's funeral. He and his wife were very close to my grandmother. Besides being family, they were dear friends. That day was tough; he really loved her and was going to miss her.

I conducted my Grandma's funeral; she was my last grandparent. Three years earlier I had conducted the funeral of her husband of sixty-two years, my Grandfather's. Both funerals were quite similar. All the family was there along with many friends and brethren; many tears flowed down our cheeks. Yet, they both died in the Lord with eternal hope. This gives me much comfort.

My dad's uncle was also at those funerals. He commented on how comforting my words were. My grandparents deserve the credit for that, not me. Really, they preached their own funerals by the life they lived.

Another June, a year earlier, I preached at a meeting back in Indiana. My "Uncle Abe" attended two nights. One afternoon I went to visit him and his wife. We had quite a discussion. It seems he had begun to doubt the validity of God's words. He thought the Bible was not in harmony; it had contradictions. Try as I did, I could not get him to see the error of his thinking. We read many scriptures. 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Romans 1:16. For over 70 years, he had been a faithful child of God but now he just quit attending.

All this did nothing to shake the faith of his dear wife. She asked me to keep him in my prayers; her hope, that in time he would come around. Alas, I don't know if that time ever came.

What is my point? I cannot help to think about Moses. All those years of putting up with backbiting and murmuring from God's children. Then he disobeyed God by striking the rock, instead of speaking to it. His punishment-- not being allowed to enter the Promised Land. For forty years he had waited. Alas, he missed it.

"Then the LORD said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.'" {Deuteronomy 34:4} How sad to see the land and not get to enter in to it.

All of this reminds me that one must always remain faithful to God. There is no **"good enough," "pretty faithful,"** or **"faithful the majority of the time."** Please read Revelation 2:10. "Faithful until death!"

It is difficult to understand the decisions that people sometimes make. While I know it is God's blessing to give men "free moral agency," why do they use it so foolishly? When one has started

down the correct path, and traveled it for decades, what would make them turn back to the "way of the world"?

As one man put it, "when did men become smarter than God!" Yet, it is done every day and probably will continue until time ends. Choice is a wonderful thing, but only when the right one is made.

If only I could have said something that would make sense to my uncle. What do you say when one begins to doubt that the Bible is the word of God? What standard will they replace it with? Man must be under law, if not God's law, what law? There is only one standard – God's! ***