

“Loyal to God or Man?”  
Renewing our unwavering confidence in God.”  
1 Samuel 20:1-23 (8 & 14-15)

*“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men’” (Acts 5:29). “Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37). “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15).*

*“The love and faithfulness, or lack thereof, of our brothers and sisters in Christ have a direct impact on the growth and strengthening of our faith or the struggle and weakening of our faith.” (1 Samuel 23:14b-17; cf. Hebrews 13:7; 1 Corinthians 12:25-26)*

- *“There is but a step between me and death.”: (1 Samuel 16:1, 12-13)*
  - Whether we realize it or not, this is always the case. *“Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time but vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’” (James 4:14-15)*
  - Yet in David’s case he should have been confident that he would be king. God had said it, so therefore, it is reliable. *“It is impossible for God to lie....” (Hebrews 6:18)*
  - As David is under more and more stress he begins to doubt and asks Jonathan to lie for him.... *“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are His delight.” (Proverbs 12:22)*
- *“Therefore deal kindly with your servant....”: (1 Samuel 18:3-4)*
  - When pressure and stress is high, we forget what people have done for us. We start to see everything through a different perspective. (Psalm 13:1-6)
  - David appeals to Jonathan to continue to love him with a love like God’s. A steadfast love that doesn’t change.... *“Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” (Psalm 90:14)*
  - Godly covenants are based on firm promises, strong commitments, and genuine love. Without these things the situation will dictate our commitments. *“Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.” (Matthew 5:37)*
- *“And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him....”: (1 Samuel 19:4-5)*
  - David is worrying about the short term and Jonathan is worrying about the long term. We have been told by God not to worry at all. The key to being free from worry is to believe God.... *“do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)*
  - Jonathan was so committed to keeping his word that he brought the Lord in as a witness and a source of his ability to do it. We can do nothing apart from God.... *“for apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)*

**Announcements:**

★**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING:** If you currently serve in the Children's Ministry, please mark your calendars and plan on staying for a ministry meeting on Sunday, December 11th, immediately following the worship service.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner THIS Sunday, December 4th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, December 4th.

★**CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING PARTY: LADIES,** we will be having a Christmas Cookie Decorating party on Wednesday, December 14th, at 7pm at Christina Strawn's house (150 Pierson Blvd). Please RSVP to Christina as soon as possible so that she can make sure there are enough cookies to decorate! (740-755-6512)

★**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** We will be having our normal midweek Thursday worship service on December 22nd. We will NOT be having a Christmas Eve Service. We WILL BE having our normal worship service on Christmas Day at 5:30pm, there will be NO Children's Ministry offered during the worship service on Christmas Day!