5-He puts US as primary on His list, for on no other * planet is there human life existing or possible. He CARETH for us.

B.-Our Faithfulness in Service---As a proof of Thankfulness.

1-God Sees it

2-God honors it---for others

--for us

3-ILLUS--A preaching band in China asked a very poor farmer to join them one spring in the work. "But, I haven't planted my wheat yet," he said. Even as he was making his excuse a voice within his heart seemed to say, "YOUR wheat? Nay, your Heavenly Father's wheat." He went, although his heathen neighbors scoffed & said he was very foolish not to stay & plant his crops first. Instead his days were filled with planting the incorruptible Seed in the hearts of needy souls around him & he was happy. After a time, there were enough men on the team so he could be released for a few days to return home & plant his wheat. His heart sank within him as He saw his neighbors fields a lovely green with the sprouting wheat, & he hadn't even planted as yet. Then the comfort of the words, "Your heavenly Father knoweth what things ye have need of," was brought home to his heart & peace returned. The planting done, he returned to the team to sow the good Seed. For some time there was NO RAIN. The ground was so dry that his wheat seed did not sprout, but the green fields around about him began to turn yellow, & before the drought was over a third of the crops had withered & died. Then came the refreshing rain, & his wheat took root & sprang up. When harvest season came he had a beautiful field of waving golden grain, whereas his neighbors complained bitterly of poor crops. Thus God honored His servant who was faithful to Him. Now his neighbors come to him, not in scorn, but to ask him when he is going to plant his crops, for they want to plant theirs at the same time.

Condlusion-----GOD is Faithful

GOD expects FAITHFULNESS from US

Way of PROMOTION in His sight is FAITHFULNESS in that which is entrusted to you.

indicated a making known of his needs to God the Father. Proceeding on their way, they reached the kirk just as the people were crowding in; it was soon evident that there was no longer even standing room left. The student thought, "Now we shall see what happens to presumptuous prayers. He'll see that God has more to do than to use His time saving a seat for the poor, old country man." However, someone came out & the old man was just able to squeeze inside the door, where he stood with his hand up to his ear trying to hear what was going on. Just then, it happened that a young lady in a front pew turned & saw him. She called an usher & said, "My father told me to hold our pew for him until time for the sermon; then if he did not get here, to give it to someone else. Evidently he has been detained. Will you please go back & bring up that old man who has his hand to his ear & is standing just inside the door." In a few moments petition number 1 was fully answered. Now, in Scotland, some folks always kneel for prayer as the minister leads; others reverently rise to their feet. The old man was the kneeling kind & the young woman stood. As she looked down, she could not help observing the worn soles on the feet of the kneeling worshipper. Her father was a shoe-dealer. At the close of the service, she delicately approached the subject of the need of a better pair of shoes, & asked if she might take him to her father's store, though closed for the night, & present him with a pair of shoes. Needless to say her offer was accepted as graciously as it was made. So, petition number 2 was answered. At the store the lady inquired where he was to stay for the night. In all simplicity he answered, "I do not know yet. My Father has a room for me, but He has not told me where it is." Puzzled for a moment, she exclaimed, "O, you mean your Father---God! Well, I believe we have the room for you. We were saving our guestroom for the Rev. Bland, but a telegram came this morning saying he could not come, so now you must just come home with me & be our guest." And so the 3rd petition was granted. The next day the STUDENT inquired as to the outcome of the old man's prayer & was astonished to find that God had heard & answered each particular plea. God is never to busy to heed the cries of His needy people.

B.-WE are to SHARE & to GIVE (faithfully)

1-Scripture--Prov. 3:27-28

2-Brethren in Need--ILLUS--C.H.Spurgeon's story about his grand father with a large family & faithful in gospel preaching, who lost a cow that gave the family milk. Grandmother said, "James, How will God provide for the dear children now?" "Mother, he said, God said He would provide & I believe He could send us 50 cows if He pleased. At the same time a group of men were meeting elsewhere to distribute funds to needy ministers. Distributed all but 5 Pounds, & then got to talking about what to do with it. None sent to Mr. Spurgeon because He had not asked for any. One said,"Let's send the 5 to Mr. S", & another & then another & then another added 5 with it. When the mail arrived the next day there was a letter with a few cents due & Mrs. S. was not happy to pay out the postage due, but there was 20 Pounds in it. Mr. S said to his wife, "Now, can't you trust God about an old cow?"

3-LOST WORLD--Give Sacrificially
--Pray for "Goers" & for "Hearers"
--Go yourself where you can
--Send your family

III.-FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE:

A.-God Bestows Services:

1-Seasons & Rain & air we breathe
2-Day & Night
3-Laws of Nature
4-Growth & Provision in food, animals, fish, etc.
5-over

ILLUS--In one Africa field women who confessed Christ were beaten by their husbands and cast into the streets with the warning that this would be their constant treatment if they did not forsake their belief in Christ. But these women have proved their faith and loyalty thru many years. As an example consider Maoman. Through patient prayer & clear testimony she has won her husband to Christ, although at first he tried her by various persecutions. When he died last Sept, leaving her with 5 children, her faith still held true. She carries on alone, her face shining with the light of inner faith & joy. Thus by her victory over old superstitions & customs associated with death & widowhood she continues to withess before her townspeople of Him who is her Lord & Master.

II.-FAITHFULNESS IN NEEDS OR PROVISION:

A.-God Supplies Our NEEDS (not necessarily our DESIRES)

1-Spiritual--(see above)--Savior, Security, Word, Heaven

2-Social--Home--Place of Security

--Family--Loved ones to share with

--Friends--Sharers of common interests

3-Financial---The provision is always sufficient---ILLUS--Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman told of a time when he had fallen into financial difficilties. He waited upon God for relief, & one day there came to his study a millionaire, who was a member of his congregation. He said "Dr. Chapman, I believe that you are financially embarrassed. I will not tell you how the knowledge has come to me, but I ask you if it is true." Dr. Chapman bowed his head in quiet assent. The man continued, "I will not inquire the amount of your obligations, but I will ask if it would be a comfort to you to know that my fortune is behind you?" Dr. Chapman could not answer & his guest, drawing from his pocket a check-book, handed it to him saying, "The checks are signed, & you may fill in for what amount you need." Thus it was that his prayer of FAITH AND NEED was answered.

4-All needs are met by Him---Regardless of their nature. ILLUS-Years agon, the Free Kirk of Scotland was holding a Synodical meeting in the granite city of Aberdeen & worshippers were flocking in from all nearby towns to participate in the services. An aged man was wending his way to the city on foot, when he was overtaken by a young theological student; the two walked on in company. Despite the differences in their ages, they had much in common, & so enjoyed chatting together as they jogged on toward their intended goal. At noontime they turned aside to a grassy knoll & sat down to eat the lunch which each had brought with him. First giving God thanks for His gracious provision. Afterwards the aged pilgrim suggested that they pray together before * continuing their journey. The young theologue was a bit embarrassed, but agreed, intimating that the elder man should pray first, which he did. Addressing God as His Father in all simplicity, he poured out his heart in thanksgiving, then uttered 3 specific requests: he reminded the Lord that he was very hard of hearing & if he did not get a seat well up to the front in the kirk he would get little out of the sermon that evening, so he asked that a seat be kept for him near enough to the pulpit so he could get the benefit of the message; SECONDLY, he told the Lord that his shoes were badly worn & not fit for city streets he pleaded for a new pair though he had not the silver to purchase them; LAST of all, he asked for a place to stay for the night, as he knew no one in Aberdeen & did not know where to look for accommodations By this time the student's eyes were wide open as he looked upon the old man with mingled disgust & amazement, thinking it the height of impertinence to burden Deity with such trivialities. When his turn to pray, he delivered himself of an eloquent, carefully composed discourse which in turn amazed his older companion, who saw nothing in it that

"FAITHFULNESS" Read Lamentations 3:1-36

Intro: A.-Backdrop of passage in Lamentations
1-Faithlessness on part of priests
2-Faithlessness on part of rulers
3-Faithlessness on part of husbands
4-Faithlessness on part of wives
5-Faithlessness on part of children
B.-Similar today----Breaking of steady faithful vows all around us.
C.-"Brethren, it ought not so to be"---Not so with GOD: Ought not to be so with GOD'S PEOPLE

I.-FAITHFULNESS IN LIFE:
A.-God is Faithful to Bestow Life
1-Creation
2-Continuance--Season--Not interupted since Noahic Covenant
3-Eternal Life--Its a PERMANENT gift--ILLUS ---I heard some time ago of a young Scotch student in a university, who was rooming w. an old Christian aunt who read her Bible & believed it. One day the student came home & said to her, "Auntie, you know that verse in Hebrews that you so often quote: 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' Well, I have found out today that there are 5 negatives in the Greek there in that verse,,& it reads like this: 'I will never, never, never, never, never leave thee.'" "Oh, said the old lady, "one of them is good enough for me, laddie. Because he hath said 'I will neverleave thee,"I will not fear."
4-Life has ups & downs in its continuous path, but we can remember the words, 'It came to pass'.
B.-WE are to LIVE Life faithfully:
1-Testimony of lips is to be faithful to God's Word & His Son
2-Testimony of life in private, likewise.
3-Testimony of life in public, likewise.
4-Testimony in WORSHIP--in our place
--on time
--regularity in all things.
ILLUS---Am. S.S. Union story of organizing a S.S. with one small boy in the fall. Then the missionary returned early in the spring to ask how it had been going. When he arrived, he found only the 1 small boy. Asking him how the S.S. had been going, he found that it had done well until bad weather set in & for 4 sundays now the boy had been on time, had kindled a fire, had rung the bell, read the Scriptures, prayed, & had a good time with the Lord. When asked how many had been with him last week, he learned "JUST ME" had been there---and so for the last 3 weeks. What ever happened to the boy or to that S.S. is not recorded in man's records, but in meditating upon "JUST ME", we can at least learn that while all cannot be great, ALL CAN BE FAITHFULL. !!!!
C.-WE are to SEND the Word of Life Faithfully:
1-Grace alone that we have it--not deserved
--could just as well have gone to/ Asia
2-Responsibility of ours to SHARE it--others need it
---without us they may not get the gospel
3-Why send it????---they are LOST without it
---They DO have Souls needing to be saved.
---show our love for Christ
---gospel does change the lives of its recipients. ILLUS (over)