

What is more scarce than gasoline?

(by George Battey)

For those calling in to this program from out of state, you cannot appreciate this message as much as those of us living in Georgia. Right now (September 29, 2008) the average price for a gallon of gas in the Atlanta area is \$4.04. According to the news this morning, that's about 40 cents higher than the national average. But for those of us here in the Atlanta area, \$4.04 wouldn't be so bad if you could find it. Yesterday I drove around passing over ten gas stations before finding one that had fuel. It was a QT station with cars lined up three deep at every pump waiting to get gas. An employee from QT was standing at the pumps directing traffic. According to the news reports, it will be Columbus Day (October 13) before things return to normal.

Gasoline is a very scarce commodity right now in the state of Georgia.

But we're asking the question: ***What is more scarce than gasoline?*** If someone got out hunting, what would it take longer to find than a station with gasoline?

Listen to these passages:

Jeremiah 5:1 (NKJV)

*1 "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem;
See now and know;
And seek in her open places
If you can find a man,
If there is anyone who executes judgment,
Who seeks the truth,
And I will pardon her.*

Proverbs 20:6 (NKJV)

*6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,
But who can find a faithful man?*

Listen, according to this, you can find plenty of people who "proclaim their own goodness." People like this are a dime-a-dozen. They're everywhere. "But who can find a faithful man?"

What does it mean to be "faithful"?

First, notice that the root of "faithful" is the word "faith."

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

*17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by **the word of God**.*

A faithful man is a man who hears the word of God and does what it says – not just once or twice. A faithful man does what God said in His word over and over again – day in and day out.

There's no such thing as a flawless man, but the Bible does describe a faithful man. A faithful man is a man who ignores what *he* wants and insists on doing what *God* said in the scriptures.

1 John 3:10 (NKJV)

*10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not **practice** righteousness is not of God, ...*

Think about the word “practice.”

Practice – “*To do or perform something habitually or repeatedly.*” (American Heritage)

The person who practices doing what God says – who continuously, habitually, repeatedly does what God says – this person is a “*faithful*” person.

Proverbs 20:6 (NKJV)

*6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,
But who can find a faithful man?*

There are faithful people in the world. There are a few out there who seek after what God said and then do it, but there are not many. (cf. Mt 7:13-14).

Colossians 1:2 (NKJV)

*2 To the saints and **faithful brethren** in Christ who are in Colosse:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Here the apostle Paul was writing to faithful brethren in Colosse. The Book of Proverbs points out there are not many faithful men in the world. They are scarce.

- *A faithful man is harder to find than a gas station with gasoline.*
- *A faithful woman is more rare than precious jewels (Prov 31:10).*

But the Book of Colossians (1:2) points out there are a few faithful men in the world. It is possible to be faithful. It is possible to habitually, continuously and repeatedly do what God said to do in His word. In fact, not only is it possible, it is commanded:

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)
*10 ... **Be faithful** until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

To do what God said includes many things, but here are four things to begin with:

- 1st)** You must believe Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- 2nd)** You must repent of your sins (change your ways) (Acts 2:38).
- 3rd)** You must confess your faith verbally (Rom 10:10).
- 4th)** You must be immersed in water for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; Mk 16:16).

After taking these four steps, you are then considered a disciple of Christ and you must then spend the remainder of your life learning what He taught thru the apostles and then practicing what He taught (Mt 28:20; Acts 2:42).

Only faithful members of the Lord's church will be saved in heaven.

ANNOUNCEMENT

To speak with someone from the congregation in person, call: **770-946-4532** or **770-946-3117**.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Five steps in God's plan of salvation:

- 1) **Hear** the word of God (Rom 10:17).
- 2) **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- 3) **Repent** of sins (change from living a sinful life) (Acts 2:38).
- 4) **Confess** your faith verbally before men (Rom 10:10).
- 5) **Be baptized** (immersed) in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Mark 16:16 (NKJV)

*16 He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; ...*

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

*38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and** let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; ...*

After being baptized, one must continue to be faithful (Acts 2:42; Mt 28:20; Rev 2:10).