

13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## Faithful

**“How scrumptious to be faithful!”**

Jamie Whyte, *Crimes Against Logic*

My disclaimer yesterday that my “Thought for the Day” *wasn’t* based on the popular BBC TV series, *The Traitors*, was absolutely true. However, I do know enough about the programme to be aware that there are “traitors” and “faithfuls” among the participants. The deal (in its simplest form) is to ascertain who is in which group. So, I’ll take “faithful” as my theme today and ask: if it’s “scrumptious to be faithful”, what does that mean?

Marcus Tullius Cicero, a 1<sup>st</sup> century BC Roman statesman, lawyer, scholar, philosopher and writer, is reported to have said:

*Nothing is more noble, nothing more venerable than fidelity. Faithfulness and truth are the most sacred excellences and endowments of the human mind.*

I agree! Faithfulness is the basis of our relationships, personal growth and society’s welfare. Staying loyal, honest and dependable, are admirable personal qualities, and essential to the human experience.

We’ll all have examples of the importance of faithfulness, and what happens when the bond of trust is broken. And we may go on to criticise those who’ve been unfaithful. But I wonder if we might consider aspects of our own lives in which faithfulness needs to be worked on: keeping a promise; fulfilling of a task; hanging in when things get tough; a commitment to be better people? Are *we* as faithful as we should be?

Alexander McLaren, a Scottish Baptist minister in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, twice President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and President of the Baptist World Congress in 1905, was an acclaimed writer and preacher. One Anglican Bishop said that few could exceed him, “for profundity of thought, eloquence of appeal and power over the human heart”. Yet, despite the esteem in which he was held by others, McLaren focussed on what was even more important to him:

*Faithfulness is faithfulness, on whatsoever scale it be set forth.*

There is no scale of faithfulness. In profundity or simplicity, big things or small, private or public, the short term or the long, tasks and relationships, “Faithfulness is faithfulness.” So is *ours* as good as it should be?

### **A prayer for today**

*What a faithful God have I! What a faithful God!*

*What a faithful God have I, faithful in every way.*

Dawn Critchley and Robert Critchley, “Heavenly Worship”