

Friday 24 April 2020

Jer.14, 21: *“LORD, for the sake of your name remember your covenant with us and do not break it.”*

1Cor.1, 9: *“God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.”*

Underlying this plea to God to remember his covenant and not break it, is the recognition that on the human side of it this covenant has been cast aside, trampled on, forgotten, that it lies utterly broken. The plea is a confession of sin, aware that there is no bargaining chip, no leverage that could be brought into account before God, no excuse, no justification. If all is not grace here, then all is judgment.

But one reason there is, giving this plea its hope (!), why God would not break his covenant – his faithfulness, the reason why he made the covenant in the first place: That there would be a people who know that God is faithful and would trust his word with all their heart and be happy.

But there is sin, and sin always turns away from the faithfulness of God. To belong to sin is to break the covenant because it sets aside the faithfulness of God for which it does not care.

If God did remember his covenant and did not break it, answering this plea to him, it was by making a way for his people – for everybody who chooses this way! – to know that he is faithful and to live in the light of his faithful love – by saving us from our sins. That way is Christ.

*“This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that reason I was shown mercy, so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (1Tim.1, 15-17)*