

ROMANS

The Heart of the Matter

Romans: the Heart of the Matter

“It’s All About God”

Romans 9

Lamplighters Women’s Bible Study

Feb. 3, 2016



Announcements

Ash Wednesday services next week:

noon—light lunch to follow

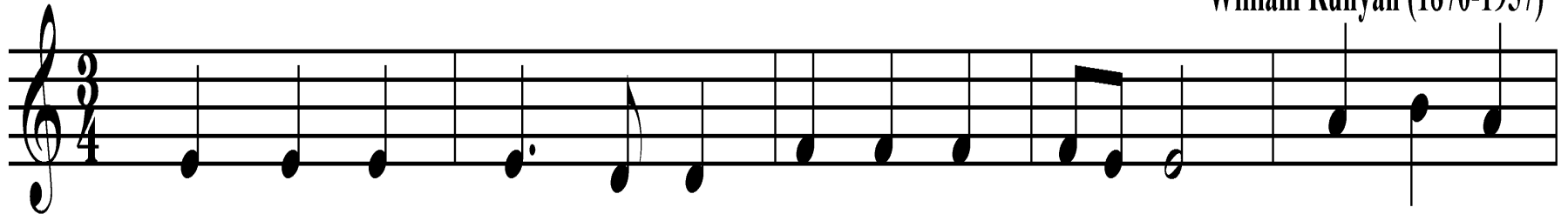
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Fellowships the following week, Feb. 17.

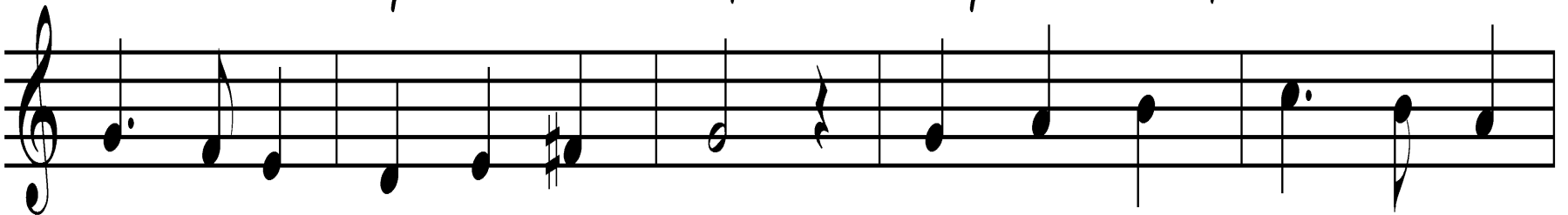


Great Is Thy Faithfulness

William Runyan (1870-1957)



1. Great is thy faith-fulness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no

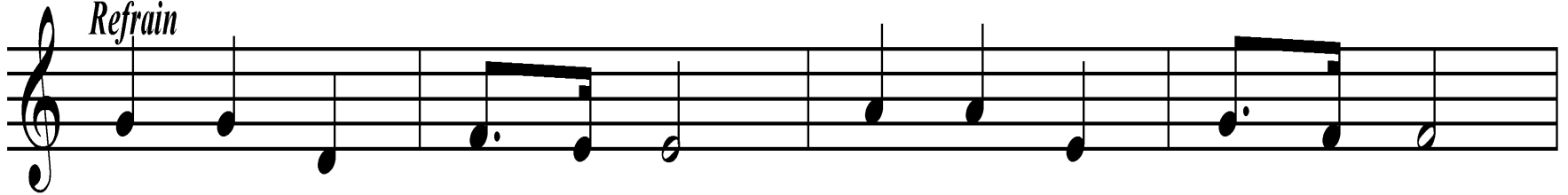


shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-

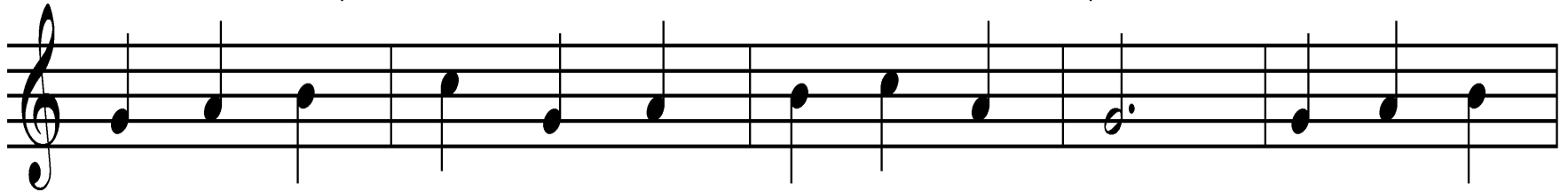


pas-sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for-ev-er wilt be.

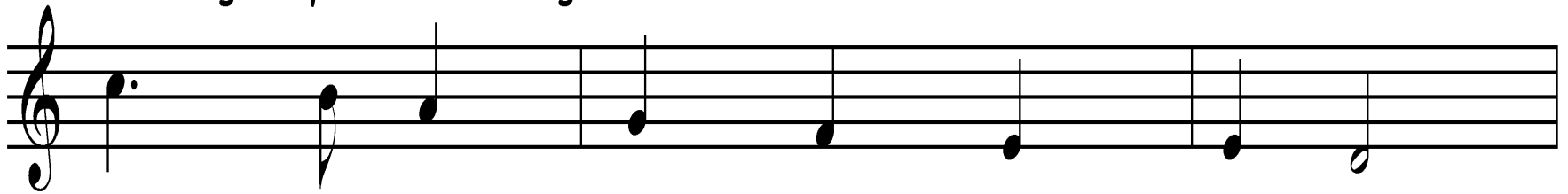
Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!



Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have



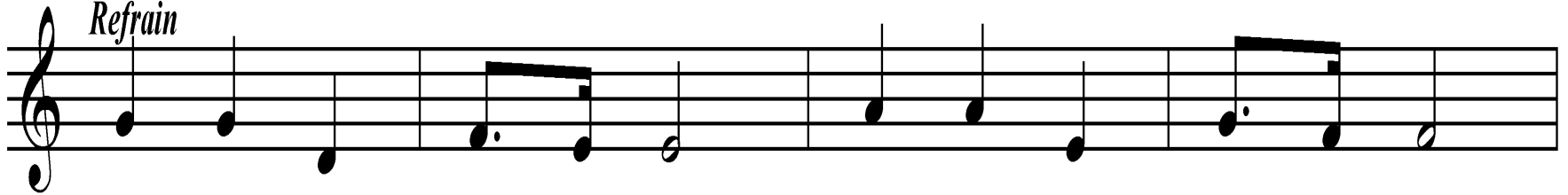
need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.



Great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold wit-ness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (*refrain*)

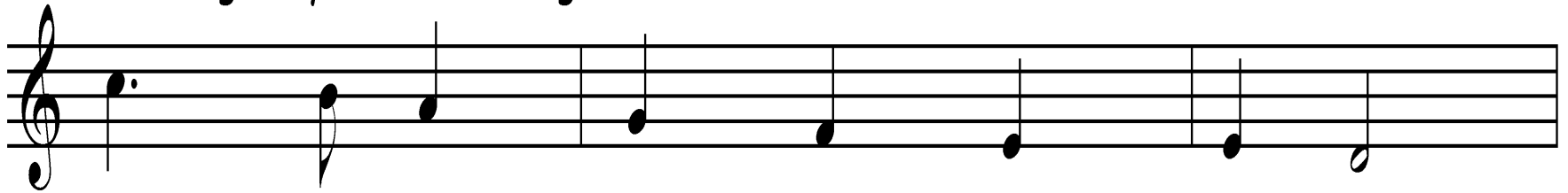
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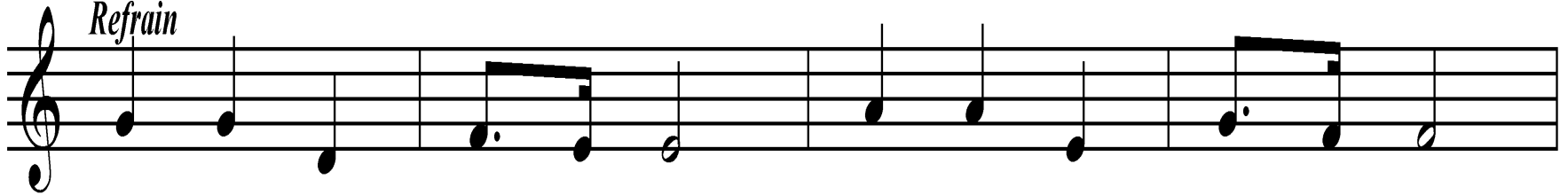
need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.



Great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for to-day and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(refrain)*

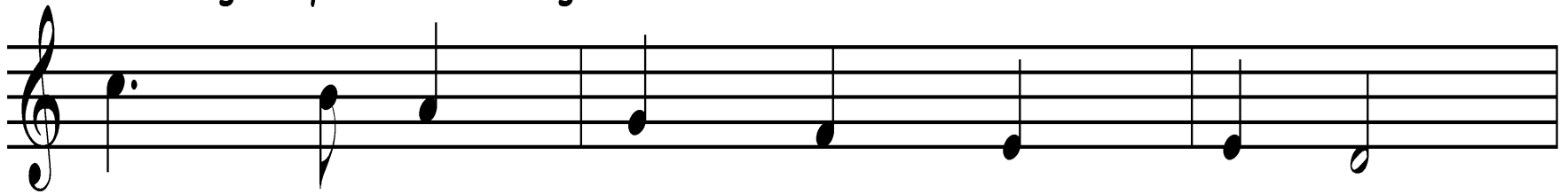
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It's All About God

Sovereign and Faithful

Rom. 9:1-13

Just and Merciful

Rom. 9:14-29

Gracious

Rom. 9:30-33



God...

1. Is beyond our comprehension; mystery
2. The Creator
3. Trustworthy to fulfill His promises
4. Is Sovereign and cannot act contrary to His nature.

The Big Picture of Romans

- Theme: God's righteousness
- Argument: God imparts His righteousness to believing sinners.
- Plan: salvation by grace through faith alone

The Question

Now that the Messiah has come and most Jews failed to recognize Him, what remains of God's promises to Israel? Anything? Have the promises failed?



The Question

Rom. 9—God's sovereignty and freedom

Rom. 10—God's justice and the freedom of Israel

Rom. 11—God's faithfulness and sovereign purpose

How God operates in history



Spiritual Privileges

1. Adoption as sons—family, intimacy, belong
2. Divine glory—God’s presence
3. The covenants—relationship, blessings
4. The Law—10 commandments, Deut., etc.
5. Temple worship—approach God
6. The promises—Messiah and future of Israel
7. The Patriarchs—God’s spokesmen and leaders
8. The human ancestry of Christ—Jewish



God is Sovereign and Faithful

Rom. 9:1-13

1. God called Israel, but many don't believe. Have God's promises, power, mercy failed? Has God reneged on His promises?
2. No! "Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel."



The History of Israel--Election

- Abraham
- Isaac, not Ishmael
- Jacob, not Esau

Love—preferred

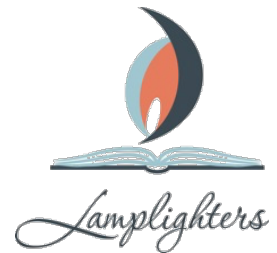
Hate—not preferred



God is Sovereign and Faithful

Rom. 9:1-13

1. For whom are you praying diligently and passionately?
2. Which of the spiritual privileges is most meaningful for you today? Do these draw you closer to God or do you take them for granted?



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

Is God unfair in choosing some and not others?

No! Ex. 33:19—mercy and compassion are at the very core of God’s character.

“*hesed*”—kindness, mercy. “to exhibit unmerited loyalty and compassion to others”

God cannot act outside His own character!



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

- the Israelites worshipping the golden calf
- Pharaoh—a case study in God’s sovereignty and humans’ responsibility

“When God hardens someone, He doesn’t create the hardness; He simply allows the person to go his or her own way.” T. Keller



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

*“God’s apparently severe immediate measures
serve gracious ends.”*

Jim Edwards



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

Is God unfair in choosing some and not others? If God is sovereign, how can Pharaoh be held accountable and responsible?

“Who in the world do you think you are to second-guess God? Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question?”

The Message



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

- God has rights of ownership over His creation.



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

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- God endures much, with great patience, from individuals who are responsible for their own actions.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

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- God shows His glory by His mercy to some.



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

“God is love.”

1 John 4:16

God cannot act contrary to His nature and character.



Just and Merciful—Rom. 9:14-29

- Reflect on your life. How has God shaped and molded you into the vessel you are today? In what aspect of your life is He currently shaping and molding you?
- Make a list of the ways God has exhibited “*hesed*”—His unmerited loyalty and compassion—toward you. Spend time in praise.



Gracious—Rom. 9:30-33

Israel's rejection of Christ meant the Gentiles' inclusion.



Gracious—Rom. 9:30-33

Application:

What is your life built on?



Summary

- God chooses.
- Israel's rejection of Christ does not deny the faithfulness of God.
- "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)
- There is a dynamic tension between God's sovereignty and human beings' free will in Scripture.



“When we get to heaven, we will not be displeased or disappointed in anything God has done.”

J.I. Packer

