

GOD'S PRECIOUS TRUTHS AND PROMISES

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Volume 1

GOD'S PROMISES ARE SURE

"And being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able to do." (Romans 4:21)

A promise in order to be effective must have two main components from the one making the promise. There has to be the ability and the willingness to fulfill the promise. As a Christian claiming a promise that God has made to me, I need the faith of Abraham. **"And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." (Romans 4:21)**

The ability and faithfulness of God in the fulfilling of His promises are seen throughout His Word.

Consider the following:

1. The greatness of God. **"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." (Ephesians 3:20)**
2. The words to Mary concerning the birth of Jesus. **"For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37)**
3. The saving of the soul of man. **"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." (I John 2:25)**
4. The keeping of the soul. **"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25)**
5. The promise of coming for us. **"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)**

I believe that the words written by Peter show us the great value of the promises that are given to us who are Christians. **"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that**

by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (II Peter 1:4)

We must always remember that all of God's promises to us are grounded in Christ. **"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."** (II Corinthians 1:20) Therefore, as we know that God has both the ability and willingness to make promises to us and to fulfill them, let us continue to believe God and claim His promises. He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think.

THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." (Psalms 68:1)

There is no other book like the Word of God, the Bible. There has always been an attack on God's word, seeking to discredit, distract or to destroy it. For it is by the hearing of God's Word that man is enlightened to come to God through Christ, learning how to live for the Lord and assuring man of an eternity with Him. Satan's first attack against God and mankind was his attack on God's Word. His twofold attack is (1) to question what God says, **"...Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"** (Genesis 3:1b) and (2) to refute God's Word, **"And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die."** (Genesis 3:4)

Consider the following facts about how God gave us His Word. We begin with the means by which God has given us His written Word. God chose to use human instrumentality. **"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."** (II Peter 1:20-21) Although God used approximately forty men to write the sixty-six books of the Bible it was His Spirit that revealed to them what to write.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."(II Timothy 3:16) Men like Jeremiah testified as to God's leading in the writing of the book of Jeremiah. **"Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day."** (Jeremiah 36:2) John also testified to the Lord's leading him to write the book of Revelation while being exiled on the Isle of Patmos. **"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."** (Revelation 14:13) Again one of the greatest testimonies to the authenticity of the Bible is that Jesus, Himself, made reference to many of the books. **"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."**(Matthew 12:40)

In conclusion remember the following truths about the Word of God:

1. It was all given by the Holy Spirit. **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"** (II Timothy 3:16)
2. It is already settled in Heaven. **"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."**(Psalms 119:89)
3. It will all be fulfilled as given. **"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."** (Luke 21:33)
4. It will be used to judge man. **"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."** (John 12:48)
5. Its main purpose is to bring man to Jesus. **"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ,**

the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31)

6. It assures man that Jesus is the way to have eternal life.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:" (Acts 13:38)

Forgiveness, whether the need to be forgiven or to forgive, is expressed throughout one's life. However, the need of God's forgiveness is man's greatest need. **"Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;" (Psalms 103:4)**

God's forgiveness comes to us through the great price of His Son. **"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:" (Acts 13:38)** Therefore the believer can with assurance claim the wonderful truth of being forgiven. **"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" (Ephesians 1:7)**

However, we are also shown how we are to forgive those who hurt or offend us. **"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."(Ephesians 4:32)**

Throughout life we will sin against God but always remember His promise of forgiveness and restoration when we obey His Word. **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)**

CONCLUSION: May we never foreget the price that was paid for our forgiveness from God and the peace we have in knowing that we are forgiven. "**Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:** " (Colossians 1:12-14)

GOD'S PROMISE OF SALVATION

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Saviour** which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Of the many promises that we are given by the Lord, I believe that the most important one is His promise of **salvation**.

The promise of **salvation** is of greatest importance because of man's need to be delivered from the penalty and power of sin. **Salvation** is used in various ways to express how God delivers His people from situations; however to be delivered from the penalty of sin is man's greatest need. Joshua 2:9 declares that "**salvation** if of the Lord".

The need of **salvation** is given in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god. Romans 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death" (separation from God).

The **PROVIDER** of **salvation** is God. (John 3:16)

The **PERSON** of **salvation** is Jesus. (I Peter 3:18)

Peter clearly shows that Jesus became the sacrifice for our sin and the means of bringing men to God.

Salvation is found only in Christ. (Acts 4:12) Christ declares Himself this power truth in John 10:9.

Salvation becomes a reality when we heed the words of Romans 10:9-10.

Salvation is yours and God's guarantee that you will spend eternity with Him. (Romans 10:13)

CONCLUSION:

The Christian should be ? of the **salvation** that God has provided through His Son, Jesus Christ, by faith. The one needing **salvation** today can find it NOW by asking God's forgiveness and receiving Jesus as their Saviour.

CHRISTIAN

"....And the disciples were called CHRISTIANS first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26)

The word CHRISTIAN IS USED THREE TIMES IN THE Bible. A Christian is one who has by personal faith received Jesus Christ as his/her personal Saviour. The Christian is also referred to as a believer, a saint, or a child of God.

First, the word CHRISTIAN is used in reference to a group of believers who gathered together at the church of Antioch. **"...And the disciples were called CHRISTIANS first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26)** These gathered to study God's word having faith in Christ as their Saviour-Messiah. They were identified as Christians by their associates, study and testimony.

Second, King Agrippa stated to Paul in a sarcastic way that he was almost persuaded to become a CHRISTIAN. **"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, almost thou persuadest me to be a CHRISTIAN." (Acts 26:28)** However, we know that it is the Holy Spirit of God that brings conviction and conversion and not man. Many continue to mock the name of CHRIST and those who believe in Him; yet there is no greater Name by which one can be called when it is genuine.

Third, Peter is led to address an area of the CHRISTIAN life and how to face it. **"Yet if any man suffer as a CHRISTIAN, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (I Peter 4:16)** Christ himself left us an example to follow as to suffering recorded in **I Peter 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."** We are also given a promise if we suffer for Him in **Romans 8:17b, "...if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together."**

In conclusion we see that the word CHRISTIAN cannot be spelled without CHRIST and neither can a person become a CHRISTIAN without receiving Him as his/her personal Saviour.

GIVE JESUS YOUR BURDENS AND CARES

I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"

There are various situations in life that are referred to as cares or burdens. These cares and burdens are like a heavy load one is carrying that hinders their progress and makes life very miserable and useless.

BUSINESS CARES can distract one from coming to Christ. This is illustrated in the Gospel of Luke 14:15-20 where the invitation is extended to come the Christ and those invited made light of it and used the excuses of their merchandise and family. Business cares also can control the mind and hinder one from the freedom to think on Christ and His work. (Ecclesiastes 2:20)

FAMILY CARES, with its many facets of parental responsibilities are also used to distract one from the Lord and His work. These cares may be providing the essentials of life, guidance, spiritual training, etc. Still we are to turn them over to the Lord.

WORLDLY CARES not only are used to distract one from coming to the Lord for salvation but can take away the spiritual rest, peace, joy, power and freedom that Christ wants the Christian to have. (Luke 21:34, I John 2:15-16)

Our Lord urges us to do what will relieve us of unnecessary burdens and cares as He has promised to provide all of our needs and gives us instructions to reach this great potential. Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." May you find the fulfillment of His promise as you cast all of your cares upon him.

GREAT CONSOLATION

Job 23:10"He knoweth the way that I take"

When going through difficulties there may be times when we think that we are alone. Job had such an experience during his great testing. (Job 23:8-9) However, Job had a threefold understanding concerning his God, which we see in Job 23:10.

Job knew that God knew where he was. "But he knoweth the way that I take." (Job 23:10a) When Job had great losses, was accused falsely by his friends and was suffering physically, this truth of God's knowledge of him brought great consolation. As Jesus has promised us, "I will never leave nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5b)

Job knew that God was testing him "...when he hath tried me". God gave Job the highest of commendations in Job 1:8 by saying "there is none like him in the earth." Surely we wonder why God would allow such testing. However, Job knew that it was God's doing. (Psalms 66:10) "For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried"

Job also knew that the testing from God would enhance his spiritual life. ".....I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10c) We know that God desires only good for His children. He allows us to be tested in order that we might grow spiritually and that our faith be increased.

Job's steadfastness in trusting the Lord through the great testing brought him the following blessings from God

1. God doubled his earthly blessings (Job 42:10)
2. God opened his understanding to see him more clearly (Job 42:5)
3. God assured him of his Redeemer (Job 19:25)
4. God gave him the blessed hope of heaven (Job 19:26-27)

CONCLUSION: When difficulties arise and you know that it isn't his chastening then realize that He is testing you and that it is for your good and His glory.

HEAVEN

"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven....."
(Colossians 1:5a)

The word HEAVEN causes the Christian to think of the dwelling place of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ. It fills the believer with joy, peace and hope in knowing that it is where we also go at death and will spend eternity with our Lord. Jesus shares the knowledge of heaven, the place where He was going and where He wants the Christians to be.

We know that there is sufficient room for all who are born again. **"In my Father's house are many mansions"** (dwelling places).
(John 14:2a)

We know that HEAVEN is where Jesus wants His own to be. **"I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also."** (John 14:3b)

We also know that when traveling to any city there is a WAY of getting there. The WAY to HEAVEN is JESUS for He said, **"I am the way.....no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** (John 14:6)

Jesus prepared heaven and became the only way to HEAVEN by going to the cross of Calvary and paying our sin debt to God by the sacrifice of His own life. **"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" (I Peter 3:18)**

There is a REGISTER of those who are saved and on their way to HEAVEN. **"...but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20b)**

Check your life to make sure that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life! **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15); "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." (Revelation 21:7)**

LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

The words of Jeremiah should be the feelings of every Christian. David's words also express his love for God and His Word. **"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." (Psalms 119:140) "And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved." (Psalms 119:47) "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." (Psalms 119:72) "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." (Psalms 119:97) "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalms 119:103)**

Consider the following blessings that we as Christian receive from the Bible.

1. God gave us His Word that we might believe on the

Lord and be saved. **"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31)**

2. God gave us His Word that we might have assurance of our salvation. **"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (I John 5:13)**

3. God gave us His Word that we might have hope. **"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)**

4. God has given us examples of fellow believers for us to follow. **"Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (I Corinthians 10:11)**

5. God has given us His guarantee of being with Him in heaven. **"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2,3)**

6. God has given us in His Word the commission to spread His Word to the lost. **"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)**

7. God has given us most importantly His Son, the True and Living Word. **"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1)**

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU SOON

Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

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