

## Standing On The Promises Of God

2 Pet. 1:1-4

### ***Introduction:***

- A. There are many songs that people sing and listen to for entertainment that have to do with promises: such as: "O Promise Me", "Promises, Promises", and "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden". There are also several hymns that we sing dealing with the promises of God.
- B. A promise is "a declaration that something will or will not be done, given, etc." (Random House Webster's College Dictionary).
- C. Promises play an important part in our everyday activities. But they also play a significant role in our Christian lives.
- D. Three facts that determine the worth of promises; (1) Value of the thing promised, (2) Character of the promiser, (3) The conditions or nature of the promise.

### ***I. The Value Of The Thing Promised***

- A. Value of God's promises can be seen in the language of our text - 2 Pet 1:1-4
  - 1. Promises are great because
    - a. They come from God and no one else can grant them
    - b. They involve man's most valuable possession, his eternal soul - Matt. 16:26
    - c. They include such things as; Peace, Joy, Forgiveness, and Eternal Life
    - d. They never fail -- not one promise of God has ever failed - 2 Pet 3:9
  - 2. Promises are precious because
    - a. All the wealth of the universe cannot purchase them
- B. The promises of God are not something that were devised in a fleeting moment of liberality
  - 1. From the earliest period of human history, at the fall of man, we have God's promises - Tit 1:2
- C. All promises of God can be summed up in one spectacular word: SALVATION!

1. This is the gift God made available to man through His Son - 1 Jn 2:24-25
2. There are many things in life that may, on the surface, seem to be of comparative value; but in the long run, true value comes through
3. Mary chose the better part - Lk 10:38-42

## II. *The Promiser's Character Determines The Value Of The Promise Made*

- A. Every day thousands make the traditional marriage vows and promises
  1. Yet, every day thousands break that promise -- Why?
  2. The character of the promiser wasn't what it should be
- B. Other's make promises which we allow to go in one ear and out the other. Why?
  1. Thru experience we have learned they are not dependable persons
  2. Many Christians promise to work, to visit the sick, to do personal work, etc.
  3. They seem never to get around to doing any of it – Jas 1:22-23
- C. God is not like us; He is unchanging - Mal 3:6
  1. He can fulfill every promise
  2. God's omnipotence is behind every promise that He makes - Rom 4:20-21
  3. He is also faithful to His promise - Heb 10:23
  4. God has the character and qualities that make His promises worth something!
  5. We can be assured that God's promises are true and that they will not fail

## III. *The Nature Of God's Promises*

- A. Some things that God has NOT promised
  1. Another chance after this life is over - Tit 2:11-12; Heb 9:27; 2 Cor 6:2
  2. That we have another day to live - Jas 4:13-14
  3. Has not promised to save anyone outside of His church
    - a. Church does not save, Christ saves, but the saved make up the church - Acts 2:47

- b. Many feel confident and secure outside of the church, but where is the promise for such confidence?
    - c. Claim salvation by blood of Christ, but church was purchased by His blood - Acts 20:28
  - 4. Has not promised to accept our excuses for not obeying Him - Lk 14:16-24
  - 5. Has not promised a life free from hardships and burdens - 2 Tim 3:12; Jas 1:2-3, 12
- B. All of God's promises fall into two categories
  - 1. UNCONDITIONAL -- No limitation; such are fulfilled without the recipient doing anything
    - a. Seedtime and harvest come unconditionally - Gen 8:22; Matt 5:45
    - b. World never to be destroyed by water again - Gen 9:11
    - c. World will be destroyed by fire - 2 Pet 3:10
    - d. Christ is coming again - Acts 1:9-11
    - e. Will be a resurrection of all - Jn 5:28-29
    - f. Will be a judgment for all - 2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:11-12
  - 2. CONDITIONAL -- Promises to be fulfilled providing certain conditions are met
    - a. Remission of sins - Acts 2:38; 10:43
    - b. Answer to prayers - Jas 1:6-7; 1 Jn 3:22; 5:14
    - c. Spiritual blessings - Eph 1:3; Gal 3:27
    - d. Eternal salvation - Heb 5:9; Matt 7:1
- C. Do God's promises ever fail?
  - 1. Unconditional promises never fail - Num 23:19
  - 2. Conditional promises are contingent upon man's obedience -- they never fail **when** man meets the stated conditions

### ***Conclusion:***

- A. We can understand and appreciate the value, character, and nature of God's promises if we desire to do so. The value of His promises should move us to obey.
- B. Then we can say with the prophet of old: "I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He

brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the LORD.” (Psa 40:1-3).