

THE PRECIOUS AND MAGNIFICENT PROMISES OF THE LORD

2 Peter 1:2-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises. **2 Pet.1:2-4**- *"Grace & peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these he has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."*
- B. The children of Israel were spoken of as having the promises.
1. NOW, however, it's the body of Christians, the called of God, are the ones who have the promises of God. **Heb.9:15**- *"And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."*
 2. We are under a better covenant built upon better promises. **Heb.8:6**- *"But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises."*
- C. Let's examine carefully what these promises are.
1. And not just a **CONSIDERATION** of the promises, but we also want to stress their **SURETY!**
 2. Because it is **BY THEM** we become **"PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE."**
- D. **REMEMBER THIS ONE VITAL FACT: GOD'S PROMISES NEVER FAIL!**
1. **That is the reason we hold fast our confession. Heb.10:23-** *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, **FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL.**"*
 2. The heirs of promise have strong consolation. **Heb.6:17-19-** *"In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil."*
 3. In view of the promises He has made, **it is impossible for Him to lie. Tit.1:2-** *"In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago."*
 4. He is a **FAITHFUL** creator. **1 Pet.4:19-** *"Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."*
 5. As Abraham did, we have confidence that what God has promised, **He is able also to perform. Rom.4:21-** *"And being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform!"*

With this in mind then, let us think on just a few of His Precious Promises...

I. GOD HAS PROMISED US AN INHERITANCE WHICH WILL LAST

FOREVER. 1 Pet.1:3-5- *"Blessed be the God and Father of our LJC, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of JC from the dead, **TO OBTAIN AN INHERITANCE WHICH IS IMPERISHABLE AND UNDEFILED AND WILL NOT FADE AWAY, RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU,** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

- A. FIRST, look at the **NATURE** of the inheritance.
1. It is free from corruption or decay.
 2. It is free from contamination or defilement.
 3. It will never fade away.

- a) The word "fade" in this verse comes from a word which gives the same understanding as a *"FADING FLOWER."* [Wilting, losing texture and beauty, finally dying]
 - b) All the lovely things of this world fade away in certain timeframes, **but our heavenly inheritance will never fade away**; it lasts forever.
- B. SECOND, this relationship results in our being **HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM**. **James 2:5-** *"LISTEN, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM which He promised to those who love Him?"*

II. GOD HAS PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE. 1 Jno.2:25; Tit.1:2

- A. Death is a sad and inevitable part of this world, but God has promised everlasting life.
- B. Consider our earthly existence:
 - 1. We were formed out of the dust of the ground. **Gen.2:7**
 - 2. We were given an eternal spirit that was after God's likeness, and also to "QUICKEN" our mortal bodies. **Gen.1:21; Heb.12:9; Zech.12:1**
 - 3. We anticipate that we will live about seventy or eighty years. **Psa.90:10-12**
 - 4. Our bodies will return to the dust and our spirits to God. **Eccl.12:7**
 - 5. What is the purpose of our existence? Consider **Eccl.12:13-14**. [14-"For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."]
- C. Death is the end of our earthly existence, but God has promised eternal existence. **Rev.21:4; Lk.20:35-36**

III. GOD HAS PROMISED THAT WHEN A RIGHTEOUS ONE DIES, HE GOES TO BE WITH THE LORD.

- A. *"May be with Me where I am."* **Jno.17:24**
- B. "Depart and be with Christ." **Phil.1:21-23**
- C. "Absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." **2 Cor.5:6-10**
- D. "Before the throne...the Lamb will shepherd them." **Rev.7:13-17**
- E. "They lived and reigned with Christ." **Rev.20:4**

IV. GOD HAS PROMISED THAT THERE IS A PREPARED, BEAUTIFUL PLACE FOR THOSE WHO SERVE THE LORD!

- A. It has room for all of God's people. **Jno.14:2** - the expression "many mansions" is literally, "many abodes." Jesus is showing there is plenty of room for all of the faithful.
- B. It is a city built by the living God. **Heb.11:10, 16**
- C. It is a marvelous, spacious, beautiful city. **Rev.21:10-11; 22:3-5**
- D. It is a place of rest. **Heb.4:9; Rev.14:13**
- E. The righteous will have a joyous entrance into it. **2 Pet.1:11; Matt.25:21, 34**

V. GOD HAS PROMISED THAT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL HAVE NEW BODIES AT THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.

- A. We will have a new building from God. **2 Cor.5:1-8**
- B. Our bodies will be fashioned anew. **Phil.3:20-21**
- C. Our mortal bodies will put on immortality. **1 Cor.15:50-53; Rom.8:19-23**
 - 1. All creation is personified and pictured as earnestly waiting for the deliverance of the sons of God.
 - 2. The sin of man brought a curse upon the earth, and mortality and death came upon all creatures.
 - 3. When the deliverance comes, the whole creation will be freed from the bondage of corruption.

VI. IN VIEW OF THESE PROMISES, [THESE PRECIOUS & MAGNIFICENCE PROMISES OF THE LORD] WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE SHOULD WE BE?

- A. **"Therefore we make it our aim."** **2 Cor.5:9** [nas] *"Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him."*
- B. **"Patient continuance in doing good."** **Rom.2:6-11**
- C. **"Who through faith and patience inherit the promises."** **Heb.6:11-12; 10:36-39**
- D. **"Therefore...be steadfast..."** **1 Cor.15:58**
- E. **"Strive to enter in ... lay hold on eternal life."** **Lk.13:24; 1 Tim. 6:12**
- F. Rely on the Lord. **Jno.6:66-68-** *"As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore. Jesus said therefore to the twelve, You do not want to go away also, do you? Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."*
 - 1. Not only does the Lord have the words of eternal life, **He is the eternal life. He is the giver of it; it comes from Him.** **Jno.11:35; 1 Jno.5:11-12, 20**
 - 2. Follow the Lord. **Jno.10:27-28-** *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand."*

CONCLUSION:

- A. God has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, and He never breaks His promises.
- B. Through faith and perseverance, we will someday be recipients of those promises.
- C. **There is an illustration handed down from our pioneer days** of a man who was traveling in the dead of winter and came upon a frozen river. He was afraid to cross on the ice, and as he was turning away, another man drove up with a team of horses pulling a loaded wagon. The fearful man asked, *"You are not going to cross this river with that team and wagon are you?"* The man said, *"Friend, I live near this river; I know how deep it is; and I am familiar with the cold weather we have had."* **HE THEN DROVE HIS TEAM ACROSS THE RIVER.**
The PRIMARY CONSIDERATION is simply this:
 - Many people today are not familiar with the promises of God.
 - They **have no faith** in His promises, and ***they don't trust God to deliver.***
 - They will not be the **HEIRS** of them.
 - In the words of the apostle in **2 Pet.3:13-** *"But according to His promises we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."*