

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

February 5, 2017

PROMISES OF MEN

As a young minister, I was reading the words of Peter, *“Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee,”* Matthew 26:35 when the Lord spoke to me, saying, ***“So goes the promises of men.”*** With these words, the Lord gave me understanding that you cannot build a walk with God upon your promises to God. If you want a walk that will stand, it must be built upon God’s promise to you.”

Peter told us that when the prophets foretold of this great salvation they knew they were not speaking unto themselves. Even though they used terms like *“house of Israel,”* or *“Zion,”* they understood that the promises they were hearing from God were not limited to a natural bloodline or generation. Peter wrote, *“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven...”* 1 Peter 1:10-12

Consider some of these amazing promises of our redemption which were spoken by the prophets of old:

“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own

land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:24-27

“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.” Isaiah 60:20

Can you believe God promised that you would be one those of whom he said “*shall be all righteous*”? Can you see that he promised he would cleanse you from all your filthiness and that he would give you a new heart and a new spirit, and you would keep his judgements and do

them? This is not your promise to God. It is his promise to you. It is His promise that He would write his law in your heart and in your nature. In this promised redemption, you would not need someone to “disciple you” into righteousness, because God promised that you would know him for yourself, even if you were the “*least*” in the Kingdom of God.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is actually more than a promise. It is a promise fulfilled! Paul said, “*And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again...*” Acts 13:32-33

The fact that Jesus Christ raised from the dead and ascended into heaven tells us that he had accomplished all that he was sent to do upon earth. These great promises of redemption are already fulfilled. They are now laid up in heaven, 1 Peter 1:4 waiting to be received on earth by those who will believe the gospel and trust in Christ. Ephesians 1:12-13

The reason that we do not teach the principles, methods, steps, how to, and the striving of religion is that such things as these are based upon human effort and ability. These things fail for the same reason the Law could not produce a righteous people. It was “*weak through the flesh.*” Romans 8:3 Anything that depends on human ability will fail you. The gospel of Christ only works for those who lose hope in human effort. God’s “*strength is made perfect in weakness.*” II Corinthians 12:9 When we realize that our strength can never keep us, we are ready to lay hold of that which cannot fail. Your promises to God will never keep

you because they are not invested with the power of Christ. But, if you will believe what God promised, He has fulfilled in Christ for you, you will be like the house built upon the rock that the rising floods cannot wash away. You will walk in the victory of Christ, having a new spirit within, God's law written in your heart and nature, and all your sin taken away! John 1:29 Let your confidence always be in Christ alone, and you will never fall. Jude wrote, *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."* Jude :24-25