

## Great and Precious Promises

2 Peter 1:4

### Introduction:

1. Christians have some truths and realities to our lives that are surprisingly valuable, but sometimes we become so caught up in the commodities and competitiveness of this world that we lose our perspective and forget which things are really valuable and which aren’t. We need the divine Appraiser to remind us of the true value of our greatest possession. And He does. In the Scripture, God flags certain truths and realities for us, using the little word “precious” to describe their value.
  - a. Last Sunday “precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints
  - b. Today we look at the “exceeding great and precious promises of God”
2. A man named Russell Edward Herman left trillions of dollars to thousands of people he’d never met.
  - a. What was the catch? Russell Edward Herman didn’t have trillions of dollars. He was just a simple, poor carpenter.
  - b. While the wild, wild will of the late Russell Herman never paid off for his “beneficiaries,” it certainly enlivened conversations.
  - c. Take the tiny Ohio River town of Cave-In-Rock, for example. Herman bequeathed \$2.41 billion to them. Cave-In-Rock’s mayor, Albert Kaegi had this to say, “It’s an odd thing to happen, isn’t it?” While the will would never pay off, the mayor had no trouble imagining uses for the willed imaginary monies.
  - d. Russell Edward Herman had great intentions, but he lacked the resources needed to make them a reality.
3. The greatness of God, however, stands in sharp contrast.
  - a. God not only has made great and precious promises, He has the ability to follow through on every single one of them.
    - a. How many promises do you think are in God’s Word? 100/1000
    - b. On preacher says that are approx 7,000 promises in Bible
  - b. God is faithful to His promises – the Bible is clear
    - b. 1Ki 8:56 Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.
    - d. 2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

## **I. Why are God's Promises Precious?**

### **A. They are Precious Because of Their SOURCE – Num 23:19**

19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

1. When humans make promises, you really can't be sure that the promises will be kept
  - a) *People sometimes break their contracts*
  - b) *People may fail to pay their bills*
  - c) *People often don't keep their obligations*
2. Peter speaks of the precious promises of God
  - a) *God doesn't break His contracts (covenants)*
  - b) *God keeps His obligations*
3. God promised that He would get the Hebrews out of Egypt
4. God promised He would get his people into the promised land
5. In Eden God that a deliverer would come some day

### **B. They are Precious Because of Their SIZE – 2Pet 1:4**

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises...

Eph. 3:20,21- "Now to him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

1. Peter calls God's promise "exceeding great"
2. "Exceeding great" = megistos – only here – mega = big
3. If a man makes a huge promise, then it might be suspect
4. But if God makes a huge promise, He can back it up

### **C. They are Precious Because of Their SUCCESS – Josh 23:14**

14 And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

1. God always keeps His promises
2. God is all-powerful so he has enough power to keep his promises
3. God is all-knowing so he had enough knowledge to keep his promises
4. God is everywhere present so nothing surprises Him to prevent him from keeping his promises

## **II. What are Some of God's Promises?**

### **A. God Promises SALVATION – Jn 3:16**

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1. Salvation is a promise of God to all who repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. This does not rule out our Calvinistic theology – Rom 10:13  
13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
3. Paul promised the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:31  
31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
4. When we come to God, just as we are, in simple trusting faith, we are forgiven and accepted into his family.

### **B. God Promises SERENITY – Jn 14:27**

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

1. People all over the world are seeking lasting peace.
2. They try to buy it, negotiate for it, and even enforce it with police or military force and yet they fail to secure it.
3. Real and lasting peace can only be found in Jesus Christ  
Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
4. Justice William O. Douglas used to tell of the time his father was to have surgery which turned out to be fatal. Before the operation he told his wife: "If I live it will be grace and if I die it will be glory."

### **C. God Promises STRENGTH – Isa 40:31 ←**

1. There are times when we grow weary in the service of the Lord.
  - a) *It seems that everywhere we look, we see sin on the increase.*
  - b) *We pray, we study, we give, we worship and we witness.*
  - c) *Still crime, drug abuse, abortion, immorality, and sin abounds.*
2. One teacher might change one little life that in turn changes hundreds. And who is willing to place the value of a human soul? We must not despair, weaken, or tire; for each soul is priceless.
  - a) *A Sunday School teacher in Chicago reached one street urchin for Jesus and that little boy, D.L. Moody, won thousands to the Lord.*
  - b) *We need God-given strength, spiritual strength just to keep on keeping on.*
3. We must learn to depend on God for strength.

#### **D. God Promises SECURITY – Isa 41:10**

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

1. People seek security in the silliest things; money, property, jewels, etc.
2. Remember David and Goliath?
  - a) *The Philistines placed all their faith, the very security of their nation, in the giant.*
  - b) *But for all his great size he was still just a man and he was killed by a rock thrown from the sling of a shepherd boy.*
3. The fool Jesus spoke of placed his very soul's security in this barns full of produce.
  - a) *But at the hour when you really need help, be it surgery, sickness, accident, or death;...wealth, notoriety, pride, jewels, or even the power over other men is scant comfort.*
  - b) *The security that only God can give is yours, promised to you by God Himself. Will you take it?*

### **III. How Can We Receive God's Promises?**

#### **A. Receive God's Promises By Patiently Waiting – Heb 6:15**

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

1. Abraham waited 25 years--until he was 100 yrs old--between God's original promise and the birth of Isaac.
2. Have you waited that long for God to fulfill a promise? Maybe you have.
3. We must not rush God. Let Him do His own work in His own time.
4. King David is another good example. God promised him he would be the king of Israel.
  - a) *Yet he had to wait for years during the wicked reign of Saul before he came to the throne.*
  - b) *And through it all he learned patience.*
5. Early in the book of Genesis the Lord promised His people a Messiah. But it took centuries for Christ to come in the fullness of God's timing.
6. 7. It's hard to wait...sometimes I get impatient with a 30 second download on my computer!

## **B. Receive God's Promise by Faith – Heb 11:1, 6**

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

1. In 2 Cor 5:7 Paul states that, "we walk by faith, not by sight."
2. By faith, as hard as it is, we trust in the invisible God, our loving Father, and we stand on His promises.
3. Being a person of faith doesn't mean we never doubt. It just means that we believe more than we doubt.

### Conclusion:

1. What promise do you need to claim?
  - a. Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
  - b. 1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
  - c. Jas 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
  - d. 1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
2. "You can't break God's promises by leaning on them!"
3. God wants us to lean on his promises - stand on them and count on them.

“What God Hath Promised”

God hath not promised skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

God hath not promised we shall not know,  
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;  
He hath not told us we shall not bear,  
Many a burden, many a care.

God hat not promised smooth roads and wide,  
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;  
Never a mountain rocky and steep,  
Never a river, turbid and deep.

But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.