

Sermon Notes

Faithfulness, Fruitfulness and Facing Eternity - 2Peter (cont)



There are
Promises,
And Then
There Are
God's
Promises!

River Road Baptist Church
3-8-09



I promise! Have you noticed how often we hear children at play try to convince one another that they mean what they say. They have declared their intent to do something and to “seal the deal” they utter those special words: “I Promise!” It is meant to assure the other that what was said will indeed come to pass.

In the book of Genesis we read of Noah and his family as they were preserved during a time of cataclysmic judgement which resulted because of men having become increasingly wicked and God’s intent to purge the creation of their sinfulness. After the flood, the ark in which Noah and his family were saved came to rest and the flood abated until they were called out of the ark. At that time God made His promise to never again destroy the earth by flood. He then spoke to Noah and said... *The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.” Genesis 9:16-17*

We also read in Genesis, chapter 12, of God giving promises to a man named Abram. He was promised that he would be the father of a great nation and that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. We know from the Scripture that, though many centuries had past, Jesus became the ultimate fulfillment of that promise of blessing to all families of the earth. We can read through all of the Scripture of the many promises that God has made to man over the course of history and in every case they have been fulfilled. Because of His faithfulness in all of His promises we can be confident of the surety of His promises including those speaking of final judgement that are yet to be fulfilled.

The greatest of these promises are to be found in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He has promised that we can have eternal life in Him, abundant life in our obedience to Him, and that He will never leave or forsake us. Wonderful and true are His promises of the gift of the Holy Spirit, of His care and provision for our needs, and of His Holy Word to which He calls us to be

obedient. To receive His peace that transcends all of life’s tests and trials, He requires that we believe in Him, accept Him, and learn to walk in obedience to His Word. Promises given by God to His children are of great comfort in our daily walk with Him.

As people who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior, and to glorify Him, we too must be faithful in keeping our promises. In examining our own truthfulness many questions come to mind. Questions such as these: Have we carried out the promises that we have made to Jesus? What of promises made to our children? Do we promise our children things that we do not give them? Have we promised to share time with them and then forgotten the promise and pursued our own interests instead, leaving them disappointed? In our personal relationships with others have we been faithful to keep promises made? Are we honoring the vows we have made to our spouses? Most of us are guilty of having made promises which we failed to fulfill, and we are certainly not alone in breaking promises.

We have all heard promises from politicians who quickly forgot them upon election or re-election to the office being sought. We buy products based on their promises to make us happy, clean, repaired, or to get some other touted benefit from them. When we acquire them we are often disappointed that those promises were not accurate. We could easily create a list of a large number of sources of promises that are either not kept at all, or which are, at best, only partially fulfilled. Life, it seems, is filled with many broken promises.

Many find their lives ruined in their pursuit of promises offering happiness, fulfillment, relationship, love or some other desired benefit. Pursuing such promises is futile in a world whose foundation is set in fleshly lusts and shallow, selfish, immoral outcomes. So instead of pursuing such promises in this world of unkept promises, let’s turn to the only One in whom there is no shadow of deception or any broken promises. That One can only be Jesus Christ! ...*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:20* The Bible tells us that He died for us even when we were dead in our sins and that He has made us alive together with Him in His glory. (Ephesians Ch. 2) Now that’s a promise! Clearly, in seeking promises that are true, we need only turn our search to the Word to learn the promises of God through His Son Jesus. He has promised us eternal life, His indwelling Spirit, and His unending care for us, and here’s the best part: He keeps His promises! **Pastor Doug**