



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

July 18, 2021

Issue 29

Standing On The Promises Of God

By: Ronnie Scherffius

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” (2 Pt. 3:9).

There is little that is more disheartening than a broken promise. Nevertheless, when a man makes a promise, there is always a chance that the promise will not be kept. A promise is made, but in time it is forgotten. A promise is made and a third party, feeling excluded, affects a change rendering it impossible. A promise is made, but before its fulfillment, a death occurs leaving it unrealized. A man may indeed make a promise with no intentions of following through.

God is not like man (Num. 23:19; Ps. 50:21). He does not measure time (Ps. 90:4; 2 Pt. 3:8), nor does He make promises He cannot keep (Prov. 19:21; Isa. 14:24; Lk. 1:37).

Christians endure mockery for anxiously awaiting (2 Pt. 3:12; Titus 2:13) the fulfillment of God’s promises (2 Pt. 3:3, 4). But a child of God need never question the power and faithfulness of God regarding His promises.

The Bible is abundant with both the promises of God and their fulfillment (cf. Gen. 13:15; Josh. 21:43-45). Christians can take comfort knowing that nothing will hinder God’s promise of salvation.

The passage of time will not hinder God’s promises. Long ago, God promised Noah that the world would be destroyed by a flood (Gen. 6:17). For 120 years, the promise of God waited (Gen. 6:3; 1 Pt. 3:20). During

that time Noah prepared for the flood. He prepared by building the ark to the saving of his family (Gen. 6:22; Heb. 11:7). He prepared by preaching of the coming destruction (2 Pt. 2:5). In due time, both the promise of destruction by the flood (Gen. 6:17; 7:21-23) and the promise of salvation from the flood (Heb. 11:7; Gen. 8:1) came to pass. Realizing that time is nothing in the sight of God we can stand on the promises of God regarding our salvation.

Man’s interference with God’s purposes will not hinder the promises of God. When Abraham was 75 years of age, God called him out of Ur and promised that through him all nations would be blessed (Gen. 12:3; Acts 7:2). Since Abraham had no children, he supposed that through Eliezer, the steward of his house, God would fulfill His promise (Gen. 15:2-3). But God told Abraham the promised seed would “come forth out of his own bowels” (Gen. 15:4). The implication was that the fulfillment of God’s promise would come through Abraham and Sara. At this time, Abraham was about 85 years of age, and Sara was near 75.

Considering her inability to conceive, Sara offered her handmaid Hagar to provide the child of promise (Gen. 16:4). Nevertheless, Her interference did not overturn the promise of God that a son would be born to Abraham and Sara (Gen. 17:19). Even after Sara had passed childbearing age, God promised that she would give birth to a son (Gen. 18:11). Ultimately, when Abraham was 100 years old, even after their interference, Sara gave birth to Isaac just as God had promised (Gen. 21: 1-2).

So it is seen that man can in no way, through his interference with God's plans, change, void, or undo His promises. We can stand on the promise of God's salvation.

The grave cannot hinder the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation. Jesus promised, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). What are the gates of hell? The Greek term translated hell in this verse is not *Gehenna*, the place of eternal punishment (cf. Mt. 10:28), but *hades*. Hades refers to the death or the grave. In essence, Jesus assured that *not even the grave* would keep Him from fulfilling His promise of building His church.

That Jesus went to the grave is undeniable. Jesus himself prophesied of it (Mt. 12:40). Inspired men testified of it (cf. 1 Cor. 15:3-8). Secular history corroborates it. The Roman historian Tacitus recorded that Christians: "had their denomination from Chrestus, who in the reign of Tiberius was put to death as a criminal by the procurator Pontus Pilate."

But it was not possible for death to keep Jesus in the grave (Acts 2:24), for the promise of God must be fulfilled. The biblical witness of the resurrection of the Christ (Mt. 28:6ff; Mk 16:6ff; Lk 24:1-7; Jn 20:1-18; 1 Cor. 15:3-20) forever stands as a testimony to the power of God and the faithfulness of God to His promises. Not even the physical death of man can hinder the promises of God from coming to pass.

We can stand on the promises of God for our salvation. God promised a Savior would come into the world; the promise was fulfilled (Mt. 1:18-25). God promised that Christ would sit on the throne of David and that His throne would be in heaven; the promise was fulfilled (Acts 2:32, 33; Heb. 1:1-3). God promised if we are faithful, we will receive a crown of life (Rev. 2:10). God cannot and will not fail to keep His promises (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). Are you standing on the promises of God?

Mothers in the Bible

The role that mothers played in the biblical story is undeniable. From the beginning pages of Genesis to the latter letters of Timothy, the influence of mothers (both good and bad) is seen time and time again. The impact that the mother has on the child can and will have everlasting consequences (2 Timothy 3:15). The godly mother will pass on a genuine faith to her children just as Timothy's mother, Eunice did for him (2 Timothy 1:5). Here's a small sample of the mothers found in the bible:

- Eve was the "mother of all living" (Genesis 3:20)
- Sarah became a mother in her old age (Genesis 21:7)
- Rebekah preferred one son over the other (Genesis 27:5-10)
- Jochebed hid her son from harm for 3 months (Exodus 2:1-3)
- Hannah dedicated her son to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:22)
- Bathsheba lost the son of her adultery (2 Samuel 12:15-18)
- Elizabeth's son prepared people for the Lord (Luke 1:13-17)
- Mary watched her Son be crucified for the world's sin (John 19:26)

We should remember to thank God for their love, care and guidance in the ways of the Lord.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her" (Proverbs 31:28)

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PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 18, 2021

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: James Cammock
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Steve Randle
A.M. Closing: Bryant Siegel
P. M. Opening: Rick Bass
P. M. Closing: Kirk FitzSimmons

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Rick Bass
Sun. P.M.: Fred Scherffius
Wed. P.M.: Rick Bass

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Anthony Scherffius

Open/Close Building:

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Beginning Sunday, August 1, the Lord's Supper will be prepared/distributed in the manner it was prior to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Any who would like to prepare the Lord's Supper please sign the list on the bulletin board. For members who still may not feel comfortable taking from the tray as it is passed, prefilled cups will still be provided and can be picked up as you enter the building.

The Compassion Card program is now officially up and running! The goal of the program is to provide encouragement to non-Christians, thereby creating opportunities to study the Gospel with them. If you have a non-Christian friend, family member, coworker, etc. who is in need of encouragement, please be sure to let James Cammock know. Also, if you would like to be part of this exciting program, please let James know so that he can add you to a team. We pray that many lost souls are saved through this method and that God is glorified!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Sandy Malone, who fell and broke her hip and hurt her arm last week. Mike McVey who fell again last week. Clara Bass, who will be having shoulder surgery Monday. Veronica Serenil who will be having surgery in August.

Happy Birthday: Desmon Flonnory, II (22)

Happy Anniversary: Dalton & Jenna Shafer (20)

Upcoming Events:

Friday, July 23—Family Fellowship game night at 6:30 pm here at the building. Please bring finger foods and games.

Sunday, Aug. 1st—Monthly Potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 1pm afternoon service in lieu of 5pm.

Wed, Aug. 25—Special Prayer and Song service to close out our Adult Summer Series.

Area Events:

August 7-8—Discipleship University. See flyer in hallway for details.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Scott DeDear
Ken and Sandra Marie
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MidTown Church of Christ

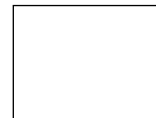
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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Mark FitzSimmons

Ronnie Scherffius

Ron White

Deacons:

James Cammock—Evangelism

Lupe Escojido—Benevolence

Bryant Siegel—Education & Finance

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of July 11, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	67
A.M. Worship.....	89
Sunday Evening Worship.....	55
Wednesday Bible Class.....	67
Offering :	\$13,706

Reading for this week:

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.” Proverbs 15:8

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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