

Lesson # 2 -- The Promise Regarding the Believer's Salvation

Introduction

- A. One of the most valuable and comforting areas of our personal life has to do with promises. Many good things are included in these verbal contracts which we have with one another.
- B. While some of these pledges are broken we do not stop giving and receiving promises because of their value and the way our daily life is inseparably related to them.
- C. It is overwhelming to realize that the eternal and sovereign God has given us many promises. Their value is infinitely great and they can not fail.
- D. In this lesson the theme has to do with those promises that have to do with our greatest need -- salvation.

I. Jesus Christ has Promised to be Our Redeemer.

A. The Biblical summary of these promises.

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

For thy Maker is thine husband, the LORD of hosts is his name, and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel. The God of the whole earth shall he be called. Isaiah 54:5

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Galatians 4:4,5

B. The demands - requirements placed upon the Redeemer.

1. In regard to the nature and effects of sin.

- a. In order to understand our sin we must remember that God created us in His image and in a relationship of love, ability, and responsibility. Genesis 1
- b. When that relationship was broken by Adam, not only he, but the whole human race was brought under condemnation. Each of us are now transgressors, unable in ourselves to return to God, and in a state of bondage. Romans 3-5

c. The effects of sin summarized.

- 1) By sin the non-Christian is alienated from God.

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Eph. 4:18

- 2) By sin the non-Christian is unrighteous before God.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. Romans 3:10

- 3) By sin the non-Christian is guilty before God.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

- 4) By sin the non-Christian is in bondage.

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. John 8:34

- 5) By sin the non-Christian is under the judgment of death.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

- 6) By sin the non-Christian is sentenced to Hell.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 19:14,15

Conclusion: For Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer a provision would have to be made that would reverse these terrible effects of sin!

2. In regard to the holiness of God.

- a. Because God is holy -- sin must be judged.

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Romans 3:26

Comment: Paul is here explaining that the Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus is a declaration and vindication of the righteousness of God. The demands of His holiness were fully met in the death of our Savior.

b. Because God is holy -- a provision for sin must be made.

Whom (Jesus Christ) God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood (death), to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. Romans 3:25

Comment: God's provision for the believer is Jesus Christ. He is the only way to God, John 8:24,14:6. The person who does not receive Him as Savior must spend eternity under a divine judgment for sin.

C. The Biblical affirmation -- Jesus Christ is our Redeemer.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood (death), we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Romans 5:8,9

Comment: These two verses list some of the important benefits which are given to believers: a knowledge of His love and sacrificial death, justification (the gift of forgiveness and righteousness), and assurance that we will be saved from eternal judgment.

II. Jesus Christ has promised to receive and save us.

A. The Biblical summary of these promises.

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. John 3:16

But as many as received him (Jesus Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:28

B. The saving work of Jesus Christ reverses our spiritual condition.

1. Once alienated we are now reconciled to God.

And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. Col. 1:21

Comment: We do not know all that God did for us in the moment He gave us eternal life and we believed upon Him -- but we do know we are fully and personally united to Him. He has received and accepted us, Eph. 1:6. This relationship is that of love, approval, joy, peace, and fellowship. What more could we ever ask for?

2. Once unrighteous we are now justified (declared righteous).

Therefore being justified (declared righteous) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1

Comment: The believer has had the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to him. Since the work of the Savior that provided this righteousness is infinite in value -- we are perfectly righteous before God.

3. Once guilty we are now forgiven.

In Whom (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through his blood (death), the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Eph. 1:7

Comment: Because Jesus Christ bore the penalty of our sins we are forgiven. It is important to understand the completeness of this work of God. There is no sin in the life of the believer that has not been forgiven, past, present, and future.

4. Once in bondage we are now set free.

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . .
If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
John 8:32,36*

Comment: The slavery to sin and Satan has been broken in the life of the believer. This was a part of the gift of God in salvation. We must learn to maintain the liberty that is ours in Christ.

5. Once under the judgment of death we now have eternal life.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

Comment: The word "life" referred to in this verse, is a summary of all the benefits of salvation. In particular the emphasis is on the living relationship we have with Jesus Christ.

6. Once sentenced to Hell we now have the assurance of Heaven.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood (death), we shall be saved from wrath through him.
Romans 5:8,9

Comment: There is hardly a greater promise than this. It is a comfort to the believer to have the assurance that in the moment of death we shall not awaken in Hell, but -- in Heaven!

III. Jesus Christ has promised to preserve, sanctify, and glorify us.

A. The Biblical summary of these promises.

Wherefore he (the Lord Jesus) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. I Peter 1:5

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me, for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. John 17:24

B. The practical explanation of these promises.

1. Jesus Christ has promised to preserve (keep) us.

And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:28

Comment: This promise is clear. Every one who has been born again -- will be kept saved in this life and will enter heaven. We have been given the solemn pledge of the Lord Jesus.

2. Jesus Christ has promised to sanctify us.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil (one). . . Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth. John 17:15,17

Comment: The meaning of "sanctification" for the believer is twofold: one refers to the way we are separated from the world and united with Christ. This is a completed work. The second refers to the way the Holy Spirit daily works with each of us to change our attitude and our actions so they will be more in harmony with the person of the Lord Jesus and the will of God. Some of the most valuable facets and benefits of our daily life are the result of this sanctifying work.

3. Jesus Christ has promised to glorify us.

In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:2,3

Comment: We are comforted to have our friends and loved ones promise to stick with us through a time of trial. In these verses we have the holy pledge of the Lord Jesus Christ to be with us at the moment of our death, or His coming, and to receive us unto Himself. There may be things in our future about which we should be afraid -- but this truth should fill us with confidence and glad expectation.

Conclusion

- A. In all of these verses on salvation we have been told what Jesus Christ has pledged to do for us. He is our Savior and He is the One Who gives the gift of salvation. We recognize from the Bible how even our response to Him in repentance and faith is due to His grace.
- B. This lesson should lead each of us to determine that we will spend time each day thanking Him for Himself and His wonderful gift. When He came into our life -- He brought every good with Him. His promises are still with us. We have seen the fulfillment of a few of them. The rest will also be faithfully kept.