

Midtown Messenger

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Issue 39

STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD

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 may be nothing more disheartening than a broken promise. When a man makes a promise there is a chance the promise will not be fulfilled. There are various reasons man fails in this regard. One may make a promise with every intention of keeping to his word, but with the passing of time the promise is forgotten. Promises are often made but circumstances arise that alter the situation and the promise cannot be kept. And of course, it may be the case that a promise is made but death occurs to one party or the other and the possibility of the promise being fulfilled becomes impossible.

Christians are often mocked and ridiculed as they faithfully await the fulfillment of God’s promise of Christ’s return and their salvation, but a child of God need never question the promises of God. The Bible record is clear. God is not simply a promise maker but He is a keeper of His promises and there is no power that exists that can hinder Him. We can confidently stand on the promises of God!

The passage of time will not overturn the promises of God. In the long ago, God promised Noah that the world would be destroyed by a flood: “And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die” (Gen. 6:17). When the wickedness of man was great in the earth

God determined to bring judgment upon humanity for their wickedness and perverseness. Noah was 600 years when the floodwaters were upon the earth (Gen. 7:6). For 120 years, Noah waited for the flood. Not only did Noah wait, but Noah prepared! He prepared the people for the coming judgment of God (2 Pt. 2:5) and he prepared himself and his family that they might be delivered (Gen. 6:22). One hundred plus years is a long time to wait for the fulfillment of a promise! Yet, the faith of Noah was great and he received the fruit of his faithfulness - the salvation of his family (Heb. 11:7).

It is worthy to note that the promises God made to Noah were both positive and negative in nature. There was the promise of destruction (Gen. 6:17; 7:21-23) and the promise of salvation (Gen. 6:28-21; 8:1; Heb. 11:7). All of God’s promises were fulfilled. God has promised both judgment and salvation to the population of humanity. To the Athenians Paul declared, “And the times of this ignorance God winked at ***[overlooked - RLS]***; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained” (Acts 17:30-31). Writing to the Corinthians Paul would affirm, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). Speaking of this judgment that is yet to come Jesus said, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done

evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (Jn 5:28-29). Promises of a positive nature (salvation) and negative (judgment).

“But,” one may say, “These promises were made not just centuries ago, but millennia! After such a period of time, God must surely have forgotten His words. Truly the time for these promises to be fulfilled has passed with the ages.” Consider Peter,

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 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. 3:3-9)

Remembering that God does not walk in time and that time means nothing to God, nor to His promises, we can stand on the promises of God regarding judgment and salvation.

Additionally, neither the interference of man nor the wickedness of man can hinder the fulfillment of God’s promises. We will consider each of these further next week.

The Roots

It looks like something straight out of some horror film, except it’s real. A forest floor is actually heaving up and down, making it look like some monstrous, living, breathing creature.

In reality, something very cool is happening. A Canadian forest is under attack from extremely heavy winds. The gusts are so strong they are actually uprooting these trees, causing the forest floor to rise and fall as the roots are pulled up. The only reason the trees aren’t toppling over is because all of the trees’ root systems are interconnected!

What an example for the church. It’s scary how strong the winds of this life can blow on us. Right now someone in your congregation may be struggling severely.

The names and faces may be different, but the struggles are the same. Someone desperately needs help. As the church, this is exactly what we are here for – to help each other.

So take a minute and think about those who need help (Philippians 2:3-4). Then jump into action. Reach out to them. Pray for them (Ephesians 6:18). Cry with them (Romans 12:15). Bear their burdens (Galatians 6:2). Make them a meal. Connect them with someone else who can help. Show them love (John 15:12-13). Encourage them (Hebrews 3:13).

In the church, our roots are intertwined. The winds of life are blowing. Let’s keep each other standing.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of December 9, 2018

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Bryant Siegel
Fruit of the Vine: Dennis Bryson
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Curtis Scherffius, Kirk FitzSimmons, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Bryant Siegel, Dennis Bryson

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Mike McVey
P.M. Closing: Ron White

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Mark FitzSimmons

Open/Close Building: Helen & Willie Cannady

Sound System: Will Burleson

Greeters:

Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Scherffius

Today! There will be a going away reception for Adrian and Melissa Cannady and family today after evening worship services. A cake will be provided and there will be a basket for cards and well wishes.

Dec. 16th will be the Annual White Elephant Exchange after evening worship. Please bring a wrapped gently used gift and your favorite finger food.

2019 POCKET DIRECTORY:

Please update your contact information for the 2019 pocket directory in the foyer.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

MARY ANN HALL, who's son Richard, is in a lot of pain. Please keep her and Richard in your prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 9: Going away reception for Adrian and Melissa Cannady and family after evening worship
Dec. 16: White Elephant gift exchange @ the building

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Naomi Flonnory (9); Jeff Laws (11); Steve Randle (13)

Happy Anniversary: George & Therisa Gant (11); James & Leta Reeves (12)

SPECIAL NOTE:

The last class for Tuesday Men's and Ladies' Bible classes this year will be Dec. 11th. Classes will start back January 8th, 2019.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady Della Rampley
Dee Gilpatrick Clark Withers
Ann Pantel

SHUT-INS

Faye Henderson Sandy Malone

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez Vikram Gottam
(brother of Virginia Escojido) (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Kim Neel-Farthing Antonio Benitez
(daughter of Joyce) (brother of Virginia Escojido)

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

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

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

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of December 2, 2018

Bible Class.....110
A.M. Worship.....143
P.M. Worship.....96
Wednesday Bible Study.....91

Offering \$5,580

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Obedience

Do will of Father.....Mat. 7:21
Obey if love Lord.....John 14:15
Jam. 1:22; 1 Sam. 15:22; Eccl. 12:13



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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