

-THE PROMISE-

Not all promises were made to Abraham and the fathers. There are some for us too. But we must be careful that we do not take unto ourselves some promises that are not for us.

Today we cannot claim any of the promises which were made concerning the land that was promised to Abraham, nor any that pertain to the kingdom.

But there is a great promise which we can claim and meditate upon, and in which we can rejoice. There are three references to this great promise.

1. "...Gentiles....partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel." Eph.3:6.

This promise is in connection with a special gospel which had been committed to Paul. This gospel also has to do with the preaching of the unsearchable riches of Christ among the Gentiles.

This promise then seems to have a special place in the gospel of the dispensation of the mystery which was revealed to Paul after Acts 28:28. You will have to read all of chapter 3 in order to get all the context.

2. "...according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim.1:1. Again we find from the context that this promise is vitally connected with the apostleship of Paul. The promise is named. It is the promise of LIFE. Now we know that other gospels had to do with life. Then what is there so special about this one?

3. "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world (ages) began." Titus 1:2

Here we have another important item. This life, this eternal life, was promised before the ages began. Again it is also connected with the ministry and apostleship of Paul.

Notice that expression, "God, that cannot lie." Satan was a liar from the beginning (of the ages). Can we conclude that this promise was made at the time when Satan fell and brot ruin into all of God's order? With this ruin came death. Life is the opposite of death. It is the only answer to the question as to the way out of all this sin and misery and death.

Other gospels look back only to the time expressed as "from the foundation of the world." But here is one that goes back to the time of the choice of those initiated into the secret (Eph. 1:4).

-DEATH FOREVER-

"If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death." John 8:51

The meaning of this verse has been lost somewhat in the translation. In the Bagster Interlinear it reads, "If anyone word my keep, death in no wise shall he see forever."

If we were to paraphrase it in modern English, we would say, "If anyone keeps my word, he shall not stay dead forever." See the note on this verse in the Companion Bible, page 1539.

This is equivalent to saying that the believer shall not perish. The word PERISH is defined for us in 1 Cor. 15:18.

There it says that if folks do not rise from the dead, then they have perished.

John 8:51 and 3:16 have a great deal in common. In 3:16 the believer shall not perish (remain dead forever) but shall have everlasting life (which cannot be had without resurrection).

We have 4 expressions in John 6 which express about the same sentiment.

1. "And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." 6:39

2. "And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." 6:40

3. "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." 6:44

4. "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." 6:54

There is no mention here of the unbelievers being raised. Neither would there be any advantage for the believer if that were so. We are left to conclude that those who perish will never rise.

In Matt. 16:18 the Lord declares that the gates of hell (the grave) shall not prevail against the church (believers). The plain inference is that those gates will prevail against the unbelievers. If not, then what advantage have the believers?

In Eph. 1:19 it is plainly stated that resurrection power is to us-ward who believe. That great power which raised Christ from the dead and which works in the believers will never be profaned by its use on those who do not believe.

-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #1

The salutation to this epistle makes up verses 1 and 2.

First of all, it is addressed to SAINTS. Saints are believers. The word has in it the idea of PURE or CLEANSED. God cleanses every orphan which He adopts into His family.

It is also addressed to the FAITHFUL. Faithful means "full of faith." It is faith in action. No others are addressed. These saints and faithful are the ones who have already believed the gospel of the dispensation of the mystery, for, upon hearing it they TRUSTED. 1:13

We might pursue the word faithful a little farther. Today we find many who have learned of the mystery. They have sat under teachers and profess to believe it. But as far as any activity is concerned they are dead. They do not seem to care whether anybody else hears about it or not. It has not changed their way of living. They cling to the same filthy habits and ways of speaking. So theirs is not an active faith. It is merely head knowledge and has never gotten so far as the heart. It is the result of believing a teacher, rather than going to the Word and learning things for themselves. These folks are intensely partizan. They will not brook anything contrary to their favorite teacher or what he teaches.

When speaking of the folks at Berea, Paul said that they were more noble than those at Thessalonica for they searched the Scriptures daily to see whether Paul was right. Paul praised them because they questioned his teaching. Would that we had more teachers like that today!

You will never be justified by believing me or anybody else. It is only by believing God that a man is justified. If your teacher or preacher, or what have you, does not drive you to the Book to search for truth, then you are still dead.

Paul asked that grace and peace be to them both from the Father and the Son.

Grace is kindness or favor. That will be to saints and faithful thruout the ages to come (2:7). So it is not just a passing fancy.

Peace for the Christian is that inward tranquility which comes from a full trust in Him who is able to keep us. The person who is not kind and loving to his fellow men cannot have this peace.

So the stage is set for the message.

-LEANNESS OF SOUL-

When Israel was redeemed from the bondage of Egypt and taken into the wilderness, they soon forgot the good thing God had done for them and began to lust after good things to eat. They did not stop to think that the God who had delivered them from bondage could also do other wonderful things for them. So instead of waiting for God's provision they tempted God and the record says, "And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul." Psa. 106:15

These folks did not realize that God had a new way of dealing with them, or we might say, a new dispensation. They were looking back to the old things. They suffered loss because of it.

When the Syro-Phoenician woman came to the Lord for the healing of her daughter, she also made a mistake about dispensation. She addressed Him as Son of David. He reminded her that He had come only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. She was a Gentile. She had no right to use that title of Him. She had no right to expect to share in the blessings that were only for Israel. But the Lord gave her a little clue and she grasped it eagerly. He spoke of the little dogs, those that were household pets, not the large dogs which were the outcasts of the fields and streets. So she called Him Lord and her request was granted. Blessing came as the result of right dispensational division. The same is true today.

Today we have many who think that the kingdom is still being offered. They try to observe rituals and ordinances that belong only to Israel. Then they wonder why they lack power and why they have so little joy and satisfaction.

The kingdom had to do with earthly things and blessings. Today God is offering all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Today is the time to put the affections on things above, not on things on the earth. Today is not the time when the meek shall inherit the earth.

Is it any wonder then that the professing church is powerless? It has what it has asked for, just as did Israel. It has wealth. It has political influence. It has a name that it is a live church, but it is dead spiritually (Rev. 3:1).

Also many who have realized the truth of the mystery have drawn back to loss of joy and blessing. They, too, are dead.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- #30

1. When the Spirit of truth was to come, would He lead them into the truth of the dispensation of the mystery, or all the truth needed for their particular ministry? 16:13
2. Of what does the Spirit-filled person talk? 13, 14
3. What is the Lord's inheritance? 15
4. What does He mean that in a little while they shall not see Him?
5. Did He mean that it would be only a little while till they should see Him? Did this mean after death and resurrection, or could it happen in their own lifetime? Compare 21:22
6. Did the disciples understand what He meant?
7. How did the Lord know what they were thinking? 19
8. What was meant by saying that they should weep and lament and at the same time the world would rejoice?
9. How would their sorrow be turned to joy?
10. With what does the Lord compare His death and resurrection? 21
11. How great will their joy be? 22
12. In what way was the Lord speaking to them? 25
13. What will He do some day? 25
14. Why does the Father love them?
15. Was verse 28 plain speaking?
16. How did they know that He came forth from God?
17. What was going to happen in the near future? 32
18. What do the words of the Lord give to those that are His? 33
19. What does the believer expect while in the world? 33
20. Where is the victory? 33
21. What chapter is the true Lord's prayer?
22. What hour has come? 17:1
23. What power has been given to the Son? 2
24. How is eternal life defined? 3
25. How are verses 4 and Luke 2:49 related?
26. Of what had the Lord stripped Himself when He took on the form of sinful flesh? 5
27. To whom had the name of the Father been manifested? 6
28. What do the disciples now know?
29. By what means did the Lord acquire them as disciples? 6

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: So glad that some of you are keeping up the studies in the gospel of John. It is not too late for any of you to begin these studies if you wish to. Just write down the number of each question and put your answer after it. Leave some space between for my notes and corrections.

I found the following outline in an old Bible which was sent to me by a friend in England;

PAUL	PETER
Who was an apostle to the	
GENTILES	CIRCUMCISION
Was last heard of at	
ROME	BABYLON
The great enemy of	
THE CHURCH	ISRAEL

Read one side and then the other. You will catch on. You might do well to copy it in your Bible so as to keep it.

Here is a little verse from the same Bible;

"He knows, and loves, and cares,
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him."

Have you been in the habit of watching for little gems like these and jotting them down or clipping them from papers and magazines? It is a good habit. They will be of use at the time when you would the least expect it.

Right here at my left elbow is a "Pippin" box full of unanswered letters. I keep taking out of it, but then each day some more are added. So I just never get it emptied. I keep a daily record of all the letters that come in and then put down the date when I answer each one. I just have to have a system in order to get it all done.

Now there is a little secret. Have you ever wished you could do more things? Do you neglect your Bible reading and prayers because of lack of time? Try a little system and see how easily it works.

There should be a time and a place for everything. That is the only way I know whereby you can stretch time. Do not crowd time because of bad management. Get it?

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Tim. 4:12. There is a real goal for you to shoot at.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

WELL: I was going to say something about the appearance of the paper this month, but guess I had better wait till I can see it myself.

VITAL STATISTICS: Beauty gave birth to a daughter. We call her Brownie. She is a bright looking calf. Jeannie-belle found her first calf and it is a cute little heifer. We call it Bonnie Jeanne. Brownie is a mixture of Guernsey, Hereford and Brown Swiss. Bonnie Jeanne is pure bred Brown Swiss.

DRY WEATHER: Here it is Nov. 21st and hardly enough rain to water a petunia. Too much outdoor work and so have not caught up on schedule for the paper yet. We finished the painting, got all the corn in, some dirt filled in below the barn, and some other odds and ends done.

BIBLE CLASS still meets here at my house each Tuesday nite at 7:30. U R welcome, in fact, we need you.

TRUTH FOR TODAY monthly paper is free for the asking. Sent anywhere upon request, or at the request of a friend or relative. So glad for all the new names this last month. Our circle is widening continually.

"ANY SATANIC ACTIVITIES against the children of God can only be effective in the realm of unbelief." J.H.C.

BACK COPIES of TFT are still available back to #39. They are free. It might be that some of our new readers might like to have sets of these.

APPRECIATION: especially for the kindly tips and helps of some friends who have been doing further study on some of the topics we have been discussing.

VISITORS: Mrs. Frank Cox of Jewett, and Mrs. Calvin Marrs of Montrose, Ill. were with us Nov. 15 and 16.

TFT is published with the prime purpose of leading folks into a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures, especially that part which is for us today; eternal life, and the dispensation of the mystery with attendant walk.

NOTICED? Lately we have been using 6 lines to the inch instead of 5 1/4.

TAPES: No, we have not gotten going again with the tapes, but are planning a series of studies in Ephesians, about 50 of them, each about 15 minutes long. We still look for the rainy days to come on which we can work these things out.

ENCOURAGED by your help and your prayers, we still press on.

Oscar M. Baker. Tel. Atwood 2684.
Be sure to call or see us when near.

-ABOUT BOOKS-

BY C.H. WELCH: New books; Job and the Enigma of the Ages 45¢. Ecclesiastes 60¢. The Dispensational Frontier 8¢ ea., 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢, or 50 for \$1.50. Send for catalog of Berean Publications.

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I do not agree with all the views expressed in the above books, not even accepting the Bible in the A. V.

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