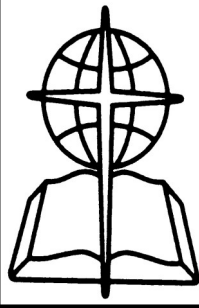


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BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."
2 Cor. 11: 28b

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Prized Promises

In 2 Peter 1:4 we discover the Spirit of God inspired Simon Peter to challenge us with the valuable and prized promises from the Creator Himself. God's promises are graciously bestowed upon His children, they are not secured by negotiations. We need to believe and apply the promises of God. Peter uses three words to describe the promises of God: "exceeding", "great", and "precious". These are prized promises. I want us to consider three promises that God has made to us.

Consider the Promise of the righteousness of God and Savior Jesus Christ. (v.1). Salvation is a universal need. It is a necessity! All have sinned and come short of the glory of God and the wage of sin is death! We all are born rebels and choose to be rascals. We are not righteous. But God promises He can rescue us from sin, self, and Satan. God's promised salvation is a personal relationship with the Creator and Sustainer of this world. Its benefits are abundant and everlasting life. Abundant life is to live with God's purpose and plan on the short side of eternity. Eternal life is to live with God and His people of the long side of eternity. God promises that this salvation is available, but it is not automatic. Salvation is only through faith in Jesus. Salvation is a relationship with God made possible by trusting in what Jesus Christ has done for us. When a person trusts in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, God gives the believer the righteousness of Jesus. (Romans 4:16-25). There is no other way to have a personal relationship with God. It is through His Son. John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 make this clear. There is nothing that anyone can do to help God out when it comes to our salvation. Jesus paid it all. No wonder Peter used words like "exceeding", "great" and "precious" to describe God's promises. Trust the work of Jesus to make you right with God and God's prized promise of salvation is yours forever! Read Romans 8:35-39

Consider the Promise of a fruitful life. God promises His children are granted all things that pertain to life and godliness. V.3 These "things" are available but not automatic. They flow from the "divine nature". Christ imparted His divine nature into those who trust Him. These things are faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and the unconditional love of God. These qualities can flow from us if we will cooperate with what God is doing in our life. If we join God's work in His world, when we yield ourselves to Jesus, He will make our life effective, and fruitful. What Jesus does will be for our good, and the good of those in our life. This will bring glory to God. This prized promise will bring great benefits in the days we live! Vv. 3-8.

Consider the Promise of the Return of Christ. Peter talks about that entrance into the eternal kingdom. He was thinking about the return of Christ. Maybe he was thinking about what the Master told him. John 14:1-3 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." Those words are in RED! Jesus promised. Peter was there when Jesus spoke these words. Jesus is coming to receive His own to Himself. He is coming that we might be with Him forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. The disciples thought that He would return in their lifetime. They believed that He could return at any moment, and He could have! The message they received from the angels said that "This same Jesus ... shall so come in like manner" Acts 1:11 They were "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." If we have cooperated with the work of God, in salvation and in fruitfulness, what a day that will be. Our entrance into the kingdom is a wonderful fulfilling of this prized promise! "It is all because of God's amazing grace. Because on Calvary's Mountain He took my place. Someday, some glorious morning I shall see Him face to face and it's all because of God's amazing grace." (Words from the song "It's All Because God's Amazing Grace" by Stephen R. Adams.)

Peter said that God has given us exceeding great and precious promises. Let me encourage you to embrace the promises that our Lord has made to us because His promises are the Prize.

Mark Your Calendar

- August 13th - One day training for leaders of all WMU, Missions Discipleship groups & Women's Ministry- State Board of Mission, Prattville.
- August 19th- Senior Adult Leadership Training— Canaan Baptist 2543 Morgan Rd Bessemer Free box lunch. Register by August 15th 334-613-2312
- Writings of Peter -August 22-October 12 At the office on Mondays 6-9 p.m. At FBC Woodstock on Wednesdays 9-Noon. To register call Bro. Bill or online at Bibbbaptist.com

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Donations 2021-2022

Church	July	Yearly Total
Antioch	133.51	1,168.61
Ashby	3,063.06	7,010.09
Bethel	100.00	1,100.00
Bethlehem	35.52	685.80
Bibbville		2,703.66
Blocton Third	75.00	750.00
Brent	513.26	7,430.74
Cahaba Valley		116.08
Calvary		600.00
Camp Branch		
Centreville	992.73	12,911.10
Community		205.40
Eoline		300.00
Faith		
FBC Woodstock	1,193.11	11,372.69
Four Points	558.92	6,757.42
Haysop	793.50	2,578.01
Johntown		785.75
Lowerytown	1,538.43	5,316.83
Lucile	30,598.76	31,292.76
Marvel		
Mt. Carmel	285.94	2,636.27
Mt. Moriah		
Mt. Zion		
New Hebron	123.10	1,465.85
Old Union		
Pineview	448.00	5,890.00
Pondville	151.70	2,520.50
Randolph	920.10	7,089.12
Rehobeth **	95.25	1,078.68
Schultz Creek	614.60	5,276.46
Shady Grove		3,395.00
Shady Grove 2		
Six Mile	238.96	3,017.15
Smith Hill		675.00
Thomas Mill	140.82	1,328.30
West Blocton 1st		1,000.00
Church Plant-Braehed		793.61
Anonymous	90.00	1,320.00
Totals	\$ 43,563.97	130,365.48
ALSBOM	443.08	5,760.04
Church on the Hill rent to own	500.00	5,500.00
OTHER	40.00	3,350.00
TOTAL	\$ 44,547.05	\$ 144,975.52