



COLLINSVILLE – TROY
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Focus. Find. Follow.

The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

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(618) 667-6708



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

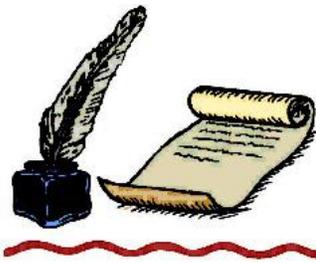
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God Will Not Renege on His Promises

Men often make promises that they cannot, will not, or do not even intend to keep. God is not like man. God does not renege on His promises. Moses recorded, “God is not a man, that he should lie, Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and will he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and will he not make it good” (Numbers 23:19)?



God has promised us many things. Two passages in particular come to mind regarding His promises.

First, God has promised us eternal life. Paul wrote to Titus, “in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal” (Titus 1:2). We cannot earn it. It is a free gift of God (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10). Yet, we must understand that God’s promises are often conditional. If the promise is not carried out, it will not be because God lied, but because the conditions were not met.

Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Many people fail to realize, however, that the *believeth* indicates more than merely accepting the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. Later in the same chapter, John the Baptist said, “He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36). It is apparent from this that belief includes obedience. Therefore, in order for one to receive the promise of eternal life, which God has promised and will not renege upon, one must be obedient to God. Jesus became the author of salvation to all them that *obey* Him (Hebrews 5:9). Thus, one who is a penitent believer (John 8:24; Luke 13:3) must confess Jesus (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-4). As a result of one meeting the condition of obedience, by God’s grace that person is then

added by Him to the body of Christ (Acts 2:47), in which we have eternal life (2 Timothy 2:10). That is not the end of the matter, but the beginning. One must then lead the faithful life in Christ. When Jesus sent out the twelve (Matthew 10) he gave them instructions and told them of all that would come upon them. Yet, he said, “but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved” (Matthew 10:22). So it is with us. We must “run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of (our) faith...” (Hebrews 12:1-2). Then we can say as Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Second, we should not become faint and weary, for He has promised that Christ will come again. Peter recorded, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise . . . But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:9-10). We can be assured that This earth will come to an end and we will be judged according to our works (2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Therefore, we should live as though we expect Him to come. As Peter recorded, “Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in (all) holy living and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11)?

We should all have the attitude that Paul exhibited when he was a prisoner on his way to Rome and the ship was caught in a terrible storm. An angel revealed to him that he would reach Rome safely. Paul told those of the ship, “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even so as it hath been spoken unto me (Acts 27:25).”^{10:12}.

Terry Mabery