



# The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

## Hillcrest church of Christ

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### Promises

By Jimmy Pettigrew

“Seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust” (2 Peter 1:3-4).

God's promises are great and precious. They have been made possible because of God's glory and virtue. Peter stresses that these precious promises enable one to become a partaker of the divine nature. God promised the Messiah (Genesis 3:15), and in the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4) sent His Son. God promised the Kingdom of Christ would never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44). The Lord will come again (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18); He promised the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:22; John 4:28-29); The judgment (Romans 2:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:10;

Hebrews 9:27); Hell for the wicked (Matthew 25:46; Romans 2:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9); Salvation for the baptized believer (Mark 16:16); Spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3); Salvation to the obedient (Hebrews 5:8-9); The crown of life to the faithful (Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:8) and even material blessings to those who put God and His Kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).

God has never promised that the Lord will return to the earth. The Bible teaches we shall meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17); this earth shall be burned up (2 Peter 3:7-10). God has never promised that the Lord will establish a kingdom when He comes. The Bible teaches that the Lord's kingdom was established upon Pentecost of Acts 2; that the Lord is now reigning over His kingdom. God has never promised to save everybody. The Bible teaches that provisions have been made for

all men (**John 3:16**); that God wants all men to be saved (**2 Peter 3:9**); that the Savior's invitation must be extended to all men (**Matthew 11:28**). Specific conditions must be met! God never promised to save those who would not obey Him. The Bible teaches saving faith is an obedient faith (**Romans 1:5; James 2:14ff**); He is the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him (**Hebrews 5:8**); Vengeance will be taken upon those who obey **not** (**2 Thessalonians 1:8**). God has never promised to save those outside the church. The Bible teaches the saved are added to the church (**Acts 2:47**); The Lord is the Savior of the body (**Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23 Colossians 1:18, 24**), God never promised to save those who refuse to be baptized. The Bible teaches baptism is essential to salvation (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 2:20-21**); Baptism puts one into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**); every spiritual blessings is in Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**).

Let us be careful not to base our hopes upon things assumed!

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### SUPPOSE - JUST SUPPOSE

Yes, just suppose that next Sunday Jesus stood at the end of the pew where you sit as you were about to place your offering in the collection plate, and just suppose that instead of the collection plate, he held out his hand. The hand that was nailed to the cross for you. Would you be willing to place your offering in that nail pierced hand?

Could you look upon that face stained with

blood from the thorn pricked brow; see the body that was beaten and placed upon the cross, could you do this, look him in the eye and say, *Lord I'm giving all I can?*

Suppose as you looked upon Jesus, with the torn hands and feet, the beaten body, the pierced side and head crowned with thorns, he said to you, *This is how I showed my love to love.*

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### Hypocrisy

Jimmy Pettigrew

Nothing is more repulsive to sensitive souls than hypocrisy. Pretending to be what one is not. Our English word is traceable to the Greek "*hypokrisis*," which refers to the playing of a part on the stage. In the Greek theater, a hypocrite was one who wore a mask and played a part on the stage, imitating the speech, mannerisms, and conduct of the character portrayed.

One of the places where hypocrisy is mainly found is religion. Throughout His ministry, Jesus vigorously exposed and denounced the hypocrisy of many who opposed Him, especially the scribes and Pharisees. They paraded their charitable deeds, praying and fasting as a theatrical display to win the praise of men (**Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16**). They sought to give the appearance of being godly, but they were actually blind to the truth of God (**Luke 20:19-20**).

A lot of people say they believe in and love Jesus but refuse to obey commandments. He once challenged some people by asking, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (**Luke 6:46**). He was saying, in effect, that their actions belied their testimony. He was accusing them of hypocrisy.

It is highly probable that you know some people who go to church services on Sunday, yet these same people live very sinful lives on the other six days of the week. These people are hypocrites! They have a very shallow type of religion which makes no real difference in their lives! True religion does make a difference in one's life. Has it made a difference in your life? Or are you playing a part?