



The Voice Of Truth

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GOD NEVER PROMISED

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 "fulness 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 5:9**); 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 5:23**), and that the body is the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**; **Colossians 1:18**). 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**; **Acts 22:16**; **1 Peter 2:20-21**); Baptism puts one into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**); every spiritual blessing is "in Christ" (**Ephesians 1:3**).

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

"Come, Lord Jesus"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

In the closing words of God's revelation to man we have the assurance of the Lord's return. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus." (**Rev. 22:20**). John was made happy by Jesus' appearance and the assurance of His coming. Let us look at those who will not be happy at His coming.

1. THOSE WHO'S TREASURES ARE ALL ON EARTH.

Jesus warned of this problem. (**Matt. 6:19-20**). We wander through this life, seeking material things, while neglecting that which is eternal. This earth is destined to be burned (**2 Pet. 3:10**). All will fade into nothing when compared with the value of your soul. (**Eccl. 12:8**; **Matt. 16:26**). How can one put treasures in heaven? We do this by living as God teaches us to live.

2. THOSE WHO HAVE NOT OBEYED THE GOSPEL.

When the Lord comes, those who have not obeyed the gospel will be eternally lost (**2 Thes. 1:7-9**). The gospel has facts to be believed (**1 Cor. 15:1-3**). The gospel has commands to be obeyed (**Mk. 16:15-16**). The gospel demands that believers "repent and be baptized for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**).

There is no hope for those who refuse to obey the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**; **2Thes. 1:7-9**). Christ is the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." (**Heb. 5:8-9**).

3. THOSE THAT ARE NOT FAITHFUL. The promise of the Lord is to those who are faithful (**Rev. 2:10**). It is possible for a child of God to "fall from grace" (**Gal. 5:4**). To leave their "first love" (**Rev. 2:4-5**). It is possible to become "lukewarm" (**Rev. 3:15-16**). People can "err from the truth" (**Jas. 5:19-20**). God's people can "depart from the living God" (**Heb. 3:12-13**). Therefore, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong". (**1 Cor. 16:13**).

If He should come today would you be terrified by His presence, or would you be thrilled to see Him? Would you rejoice or regret to have to meet Him? Could you, like John, say, "Come, Lord Jesus"?