

The Promises of God - Lesson 5

Introduction:

1. In our study of God's promises we have shown that:
 - a. they are "*exceeding great and precious*" (2 Peter 1:4)
 - b. they are "trustworthy" -- God "*is not slack concerning His promise*" (2 Peter 3:9)
 - c. they are "effective"
 - 1) God's promises will have a positive effect upon those who trust them.
 - 2) Trusting God's promises led Abraham, Sara, Isaac, and Jacob to serve Him faithfully (Hebrews 11:13-16).
 - d. some of them are "conditional."
2. In our last lesson we examined "God's promise to send Jesus."
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on a special blessing that God promised in connection with sending Jesus -- "forgiveness."

Discussion:

- I. GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS IS MENTIONED MANY TIMES IN THE BIBLE
 - A. He promised cleansing from sin to the people of Judah (Isaiah 1:18; 55:7).
 - B. His promise of forgiveness involved the death of Christ (Isaiah 53:4-6, 11).
 - C. His new covenant would provide the complete removal of sins (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
 - D. To fully appreciate this promise, we must understand that . . .
- II. MAN NEEDS FORGIVENESS
 - A. We need forgiveness because:
 1. of sin (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8, 10)
 2. of the consequences of sin.
 - a. Sin causes separation from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
 - b. The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).
 - B. David emphasized our need for forgiveness by describing himself before and after he was forgiven (Psalm 32:1-5).
 1. He first showed in vs.1-2 how a forgiven person is "blessed."
 2. He showed in vs.3-4 that he had not always enjoyed this blessing.
 3. He showed in vs.5 how he received God's forgiveness.
- III. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST MAKES FORGIVENESS POSSIBLE
 - A. Jesus shed His blood "*for the remission [removal, forgiveness] of sins*" (Matthew 26:27-28; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14).
 - B. We receive "*the remission of sins*" when we repent and are baptized in the Lord's name (Acts 2:38; Colossians 2:12-13).
 - C. The Lord's blood continues to provide forgiveness for His followers (1 John 1:7, 9).
- IV. THE LORD'S FORGIVENESS IS SO SPECIAL THAT IT SHOULD MOTIVATE A PERSON TO SERVE HIM
 - A. David illustrated this principle (Psalm 51:9-13).
 - B. The sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50 loved Jesus because He forgave her of many sins.