

The Promises of God - Lesson 25

Introduction:

1. In our study of God's promises, we have seen that they are *"exceeding great and precious"* (2 Peter 1:4).
2. We have also seen that God made many of His promises through the prophets in the Scriptures (Romans 1:1-3).
3. In our last lesson we studied "God's promise to establish a new covenant with His people" (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on "God's promise to call His people by a new name."

Discussion:

- I. GOD PROMISED THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH THAT HE WOULD CALL HIS PEOPLE BY A NEW NAME
 - A. (Isaiah 65:15) Isaiah stated that God would *"call his servants by another name."*
 1. According to Genesis 32:24-32, God's people were at one time called by the name *"Israel."*
 2. A time would come when God would call His people by a different name.
 - B. (Isaiah 56:5) God stated that He would give His people:
 1. *"a name better than of sons and of daughters"*
 2. *"an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."*
 - C. (Isaiah 62:1-2) Isaiah revealed when God would call His people by this new name.
 1. (vs.1) Righteousness and salvation would go forth from Jerusalem.
 2. (vs.2) The Gentiles would see God's righteousness.
- II. GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISE
 - A. The events prophesied in Isaiah 62:1-2 have occurred.
 1. (Acts 8:1-4) Righteousness and salvation were going forth from Jerusalem.
 2. (Acts 10) The Gospel was taken to Cornelius and his household.
 3. (Acts 11:18) The apostles and other brethren in Jerusalem acknowledged that God had *"to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."*
 - B. (Acts 11:19-26) When the conditions prophesied by Isaiah were met, God's people were called *"Christians."*
 1. God's people under the new covenant are sometimes referred to as *"disciples," "saints,"* and *"brethren."*
 2. *"Christian"* is the name to be worn by God's people under the new covenant.
- III. ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING THOSE WHO WEAR THE NAME *"CHRISTIAN"*
 - A. Acts 11
 1. (vs.26) A Christian is a "disciple" [a learner or follower of someone].
 - a. Christians are learners or followers of Christ whose name is far greater than Israel's (Philippians 2:9-11).
 - b. A Christian must be a disciple, but there is much more to being a Christian than just being a disciple (John 8:31-32).
 2. A Christian is "one who has been added to the Lord."
 - a. (vs.24) The people in Antioch who were the first to be called Christians had been *"added unto the Lord."*
 - b. We learn how a person gets into Christ in Galatians 3:26-27.
 3. A Christian is "a member of the Lord's church."
 - a. (vs.26) The people in Antioch who were the first to be called Christians made up the church there.
 - b. We learn from Acts 2:47 that the Lord adds those who are saved to His church.
 4. Summarizing, a Christian is a disciple of the Lord who has obeyed the Gospel, been saved from his sins, and added to the Lord's church.
 - B. (Acts 26:28) A Christian is a changed person.
 - C. (1 Peter 4:14-16) A Christian is committed to doing the Lord's will.