

Doctrine of the Faith-Rest Drill: Promises by Categories: Promises Pertaining to Life: Environment, Food, Danger, Prosperity

C. The Promises by Categories.

- 1- We will begin this section by returning to Psalm 119 where recently we noted the sixth strophe in verses 41-48. The first verse of the seventh strophe provides a wonderful introduction to our classification of promises given to the Church Age believer:

Psalm 119:49 - Remember Your Word [*dabar*] to your servant in which you have caused me to have confidence.

- 2- The divine revelation from which the psalmist acquires his confidence is invested with promises which are applicable to our daily lives and circumstances.
- 3- We have taken the time to study the experiences of the Exodus generation and the continuing manifestations of God's faithfulness to His elect nation Israel.
- 4- Even though he kept His promises to her, the first generation never learned to rest in faith upon those promises and consequently died the sin unto death.
- 5- Even so, we may retrospectively gain insight and courage from His grace provisions to a stubborn and rebellious people:

Isaiah 43:1 - Now thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you [**bought you out from the salve market of sin of which Egypt was the type]; I have called you by name ["**He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out,**" **John 10:3**]; you are Mine [**eternal security**]!**

v 2 - “When you [encounter difficult situations and trials as illustrated by three famous events in Israelite history] pass through the waters [remember Exodus 14:22], I will be with you. When you pass through the rivers [remember Joshua 3:16-17], they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire [remember Daniel 3:25], and you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.”

- 6- It is important to know that the promises have been given to us “in order that by means of them we might become partakers of the divine nature.”
- 7- God by means of His integrity, motivated by His love, and expressed through His grace gives to His children His word of honor. We call them promises.
- 8- The promises available to us are so numerous it is helpful to organize them into Peter’s two classifications.

A. Promises Pertaining to Life:

- 1) The Lord since the end of the universal flood has guaranteed the consistency of our earthly environment.

Genesis 8:22 - “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

- 2) Rulership over the earth was previously granted the entire human race in the original promise which was given to Adam and Ishah:

Genesis 1:26 - God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness and let them rule over the fish ... the birds ...the cattle, and over all the earth ...

v 28 - God blessed them and God said to them, “Be faithful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it ...”

- 3) Although this promise was given to our original parents prior to the fall, its message is restated following the flood in Genesis 9:1-7.

- 4) The earth will supply our material needs but man is required to work and otherwise function in a capitalistic economic environment.

Genesis 3:17b - "Cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

v 18 - "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you and you shall eat the plants of the field.

v 19 - "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread ...

Exodus 20:15 - "You shall not steal."

v 17 - "You shall not lust after ... anything that belongs to your neighbor. "

- 5) From this we see a set of circumstances which demand the marriage of grace and faith.
- 6) God has promised us every necessity that is required for sustenance in life but because of the fall we must acquire that sustenance from a fallen environment.
- 7) The earth will produce food if it is worked and you can afford to buy some of it if you have worked.
- 8) Intruding upon this arrangement are the uncertainties of life which cause the faint-hearted to doubt grace and lose faith.
- 9) Contributing greatly to this attitude is the fact that man and the creation are both fallen and will result in physical death for the former and complete destruction for the latter.
- 10) Restoring faith, acquiring confidence, and developing courage in the face of a world designed to kill us motivates us to become dependent upon the promises pertaining to life.
- 11) One of the most claimed promises among the thousands contained in Scripture is:

Psalms 23:1 - "The Lord is the One shepherding me. I shall not lack anything."

John 10:7 - “Truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”

v 9 - “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.”

12) David also points out the fact that he executed the spiritual life of Israel in:

Psalms 23:3 - He guides me in wheel-tracks made by the wagon wheels of righteousness for the vindication of His integrity.

13) Loyalty to truth under pressure produces the abundant flow of divine grace to the believer. One who is loyal keeps the faith and applies doctrine.

14) This attitude enabled David to understand and then relate to us quite a number of promises in:

Psalms 34:9b - To those who fear [**yare: enduring devotion, respect, and reverence**] Him, there is no want.

v 10b - They who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing.

15) David’s attitude is expressed by the Apostle Paul’s conclusion to his Epistle to the Philippians:

Philippians 4:11 - Not that I speak from want for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

v 12 - I know how to get along with humble means and I know how to live in prosperity. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

v 13 - I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

v 19 - My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.