



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Promises, Promises

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

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“A chicken in every pot, and a car in every garage.”

– 1928 Herbert Hoover Presidential Campaign

This may be perhaps one the best known campaign promises ever uttered. During the presidential campaign of 1928 a circular published claimed that if Herbert Hoover were elected, America would see this kind of prosperity. However, the stock market crash of 1929 plunged the country into the Great Depression. The American people lost confidence in Hoover and he failed to win a second term.

This is a great example pointing out the difficulty in making and keeping campaign promises. People wrongly believe politicians will say anything “just to get elected”. The reality is most candidates have the best of intentions when making statements regarding stands on issues and plans for serving in office. It is when faced with the challenges of leading and lawmaking, changes in circumstances, and the very realities of the political process that it becomes quite difficult to follow through on the statements and promises made during the campaign. There may be a few who make promises they have no intention of keeping, but most simply find that it may be quite difficult at times, due to circumstances and realities, to keep the promises they have made. Whatever the case, when it comes to politics, many will indeed often say, “promises, promises”.

This is not the case when it comes to God and the promises we find in His Word. Those who trust Christ and follow God have a heavenly Father Who will always keep His promises. He *intends* to do so when He makes them and He *is able* to do so regardless of circumstances. So we are reminded in Hebrews 10:23 that we can “*Hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful...*” One of the great privileges we have as citizens of heaven are the great promises we have from our heavenly king. As we near the close of our study of Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi, we come to one of the most encouraging promises God has given us. When we grasp its truth it will certainly help keep us from wavering in our walk with Christ:

...My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Let us break down this encouraging verse and look more closely at God’s wonderful promise, His complete provision, and His infinite provenance.¹

THE WONDERFUL PROMISE

Paul encourages the Philippian believers with the wonderful promise, “*My God shall supply all your needs...*” This is such a simple yet profound promise which can bring us great peace and comfort in the midst of any trials, circumstances, and needs we might face in life.

Before we can experience the comfort, encouragement, and provision of this wonderful promise, we must first recognize our great needs. Few of us experience the material and financial needs Paul and the Philippian believers experienced. However we all have the same spiritual needs which can only be met through the provision of God’s grace. If we do not recognize our need, then we fail to seek and depend upon the only One who can truly meet our needs. It is the recognition of our spiritual needs that Jesus talks about in the Beatitudes when He said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). “Poor in spirit” means that we must realize we have no resources or abilities within ourselves to come to God or be right with God. We must rely completely upon His grace to give us that which we cannot earn or do not deserve.

We all have the need for salvation. Each and every one of us is at heart a rebel against God and separated from Him because of our sin. This is never more clearly demonstrated than when we try to make ourselves right with Him through our own efforts at morality. When we realize the seriousness of our sinful condition, then we recognize that it is a need which can only be met through Christ and His work on the cross. It is only through repentance and faith in His perfect life and death on our behalf that our need for redemption and salvation can be met.

After trusting Christ, we are still totally needy for God’s grace to enable us to grow in our Christian lives and to live for Him.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATOR / ELECTED OFFICIAL INTERIM BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

12:00 NOON – TREASURER’S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54 IN BASEMENT OF EAST WING)

Promises, Promises

We are tempted to try harder in our own strength to change and to grow and to live better. We must recognize our need so that we will go to Christ seeking His help and strength. We can be confident it is God who began a good work in us and will complete it (Phil. 1:6). We must remember that though we are called to “work out our salvation”, it is God who is at work in us, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:12-13).

THE COMPLETE PROVISION

How encouraging to read the promise that **“God shall supply ALL your needs...”** In the context of chapter four, Paul is specifically referring to the material, financial needs the Philippian believers might experience as they have sent him a generous gift for the work of the ministry. In the context of the whole letter, the promise refers to all the spiritual needs the members of that Roman colony might experience. “God would supply their need for joy and for steadfastness and for endurance and for humility and for unity and for peace and for the ability to face all circumstances. The stunning scope of the promise is that there is not one thing that they (and all faithful Christians) truly needed that God would not give.”² We can claim the same promise that God will supply all of our needs, whether they be physical and material or spiritual needs. The Apostle Peter also wrote of the complete provision found in God’s great promises:

*²Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature... **1 Peter 2:2-4***

“Every need” refers not only to our material, physical, or financial needs, but encompasses the breath-taking range of everything that is vital to living for Christ.

THE INFINITE PROVENANCE

Paul tells us that God will supply all our needs **“according to His riches in glory.”** God himself is the source of the resources available to meet our needs. We cannot even begin to imagine vast resources available according to God’s riches in glory. The One who created the universe by the power of His word draws out of those infinite resources to meet our needs. Perhaps we might

imagine a Bill Gates or a Warren Buffet giving a huge gift to meet the needs of individuals or organization. Even with their great wealth they would be giving “out of” their vast resources. When we consider God’s infinite resources, we see how He can promise to meet ALL our needs, ACCORDING TO His riches.

We must notice too that God meets our needs **“In Christ”**. We are completely undeserving of any of God’s provisions or blessings. As a matter of fact, apart from Christ, we are enemies of God and under His anger and condemnation (Ephesians 2:1-6). But God in His grace sent Christ to live a perfect life and then suffer and die so that His righteousness could be given to us and our sin could be placed upon Him. Paul gives a similar description of how God supplies our spiritual needs in Ephesians 1:3 when he writes of how **God “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...”**

It is in Christ we have the supply of our need for redemption and salvation. It is in Christ we have the supply of all our other needs as well. If God was willing to give His own Son to redeem us and meet our greatest spiritual need, will He not also freely meet all our other needs as well? Paul answers this question clearly:

*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? **Romans 8:32***

CONCLUSION

Paul declares this promise for those who are demonstrating that they are indeed citizens of heaven by their changed lives and priorities. The Roman Empire was not known for kindness and generosity, and those in the Roman colony of Philippi would have had similar values. Yet the believers in the church there gave faithfully and sacrificially to the work of the gospel. Paul is not saying they, or we, earn God’s promises by giving or any other work. He is claiming God’s provision for those whose are right with God through Christ and demonstrate that fact by how they live and how they give.

➤ **DO YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR GREAT NEED – FOR SALVATION OR FOR GRACE TO GROW IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE?**

¹ Provenance: “Place or source of origin”.

² Hughes, Kent R. *Philippians: The Fellowship of the Gospel* (Kindle Locations 3281-3283). Good News Publishers/Crossway Books. Kindle Edition.