

The Precious Promises

By R.T. Nusbaum

People have made a living of cutting up the Bible and selling parts back to us as "precious promises." Some Christians use them as a sort of a holy horoscope. They pull out a daily scripture that gives a particular precious promise for the day. Basically it is a deceptive thing -- for the promises of God belong to the Seed which is Christ.

"Now To Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made..." (Galatians 3:16 and 19).

From the above verses it is clear that the promises do not apply to the Jews or us but to the Seed, which is Christ. If we are in Christ and one with Him then they apply to us also. To examine the promises apart from the One to whom they belonged is to miss one of the main points of scripture. We do not want to be like the parable that describes the heir, the Son of the King, coming to the laborers of His vineyard. When He arrived they beat Him up and killed Him so that they would be the heirs of the vineyard. But Jesus is the True Vine and He is the Heir of all things. We are joint heirs or joined heirs. The inheritance and the promises apply to us because of our union with the Heir. I Corinthians 6:17 says, "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."

It is ridiculous to make Precious Promise Boxes in order to comfort ourselves with the blessings. The purpose for following this method of examining the precious promises runs contrary to God's Heir. God's method and our method of laying hold of the precious promises are designed to guide our lives in some way. One method tells us what to do with our lives while God's method of guidance is through becoming partakers of the divine nature. Our guidance is meant to be through the way of His nature. This nature is a Life that is not dependent upon our strength or human resources. It is Christ in us the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

We partake of the divine nature through these exceeding great and precious promises according to II Peter 1:4. But the promises to Him and the promises to us are two different things. He is Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2) and all promises apply to Jesus Christ. But the promises of eternal life, union, love, etc. apply to us if we understand that these speak of union with Him. These precious promises of oneness with Christ cause us to embrace and have faith in that union. We begin to relate to Him the way a branch does to a vine. Through faith in these precious promises we begin to partake of the divine nature. These are the exceeding and precious promises. They lead you to faith in that union which moves us into living by the nature of Christ. We begin to act as though we were married or joined instead of separate!

Why are we using precious promises to direct our lives? Don't we understand that we do not have a life apart from Christ? Our ability to overcome is not based on proper direction

and guidance for our lives but by living according to One who is greater than us. This One resides within us. "Ye are of God little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4). We need to learn of him who is "meek and lowly in heart" instead of seeking to be more meek and lowly in ourselves (Matt. 11:28-30). What this verse is not telling us is to see how lowly Jesus is and copy His humility. What this verse is saying is that, if we come away from ourselves unto Him, and learn that He is our life, then all His attributes will be manifest in us (Romans 13:13-14).

Only by embracing the promises of His love and subsequent union with us will we become partakers of the divine nature. Simply reading of blessings and promises that were meant for Christ but applying them to ourselves, will never bring us into the victory of His life. We must leave off the modern day inventions of man, created to comfort faltering flesh, and seek to have Christ revealed in the power of the Holy Spirit. ***