

MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." - 2 Corinthians 1:20

In the Christian walk, when someone mentions promises many times we think of the promises that we make toward God, or what we try to conjure up in order to prove to others that God's promises are true. If you are caught up in that kind of spiritual hamster-wheel let me put your mind at ease. The New Testament never instructs us to make promises to God. The reason is because no one can keep them. Old Testament Israel was an example of a people who continually broke their covenant with God (Hebrews 8:9). We even see it

in our religious day with all of the rededications that happen Sunday after Sunday before a man-made altar at the front of a church. If it is the same people every Sunday coming to the front, that is just evidence that someone made a vow to God and has broken it – again!

Once again, in the New Testament we were never told to promise anything to God. It's not there. The Bible however, is full of the promises that God has made to us. You will find that God's gracious promises are one sided. That's the part of grace that people find so hard to accept. The fact is, that we have nothing to offer God nor does He need anything from us. Everything we have is by grace, and once we are saved by grace, we are to

live a life of grace – expressing that grace from our lives! Our opening verse clearly teaches us that all the promises of God are fulfilled "in Him" - God's Son, Jesus Christ. Promises such as the forgiveness of sins and the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7), the promise of salvation (Romans 10:10), the promise of the Holy Spirit to keep us and teach us about living holy lives (John 14:16-26), the promise of eternal life (John 10:28), and the promise of being joint-heirs with Jesus Christ in glory, (Romans 8:17), just to name a few.

Paul said that the promises of God are all "Yes" in Jesus Christ. That means He is the embodiment of God's promises. God's promises to us have already been fulfilled in Jesus! What

God has sovereignly purposed in His Son in eternity, it is as good as done in time, space, and history. We are just living out the promises that have been accomplished "in Him." That is why believers are also called "the children of promise" (Romans 9:8), and the "heirs of the promise" (Hebrews 6:17). The intended purpose of God for placing all His promises in His Son Jesus Christ was for our benefit and for His glory. Our only role is to receive all God has promised by faith, and rest in the finished work of Christ and give a loud and hearty "Amen!" to Jesus Christ, unto God's glory.

David C. Hale, pastor
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