

Destroying the Promises

Jack H. Williams

One of my favorite passages, one that gives confidence and assurance almost beyond my ability to conceive of is given by the great apostle Paul. As he penned it he was facing the waning days of his life. He was about to face the common end of all mankind — death (Hebrews 9:27; 2 Timothy 4:6). But in spite of this he still was able to write the following:

... nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.
2 Timothy 1:12

When I face the trials which come upon me as a child of God (which to Paul would surely have seemed meager indeed!) I often think of these words. They fill my heart with the grand assurance that **God is able!** What comfort that brings. What hope it instills that I may continue on in His way, doing all to His glory. No matter what comes our way we gain strength in the promises that He:

- Will be with us (Hebrews 13:5)
- Will provide our needs (Matthew 6:33)
- Has given His understandable, all sufficient word (John 8:32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Will provide victory through His Son (Revelation 17:14).

The writer in Hebrews tells us that we have such hope “as an anchor of the soul” because it is “impossible for God to lie” (Hebrews 6:18-19). I shudder to even imagine what life would be like without such wonderful assurance of God's care and ability to make “all things work together for good” to His children (Romans 8:28). Thus it is alarming indeed when I hear things being said and done that, instead of building on that blessed hope would in fact destroy the very promises which enable us to press on. For instance, below are just a few things which are commonly taught and thought that, if true, would destroy the truthfulness of God upon which we base our blessed hope.

- *Some believe and teach that God can and will save those “sincere” individuals in denominational bodies.* But God, Who cannot lie, said “Christ ... **is the saviour of the body**” (Ephesians 5:23), “the body” being the **one** church which He built (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; Matthew 16:18).
- *Some believe and teach that God can and will save those baptized, but baptized for reasons other than those in His Word.* But God, Who cannot lie, said those baptized even for remission of sins, but after the baptism of John, still needed to obey Him and be correctly baptized (Acts 19:1-5).
- *Some believe and teach that God can and will save those in unscriptural marriages.* But God, Who cannot lie, said “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and who marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery” (Matthew 19:9). He has likewise made clear that adulterers will be lost (Galatians 5:19-21).

It really all comes down to this. Each of the above positions, though “comforting” to some, denies the

truthfulness of God. But if we are to rejoice in the ability to stand on the promises of God, we must live by and teach those promises also. To do otherwise will only destroy our hope and the hope of those who foolishly follow us in that error.

15331 East 39th Street
Independence, MO 64055

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