

Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

1 **Please be patient...**

- ▶ This Webex format is an experiment to allow us to interact with one another.
- ▶ We'll all need some patience with one another as we learn to mute/unmute our microphones, type in a chat window, and deal with technical issues.
- ▶ This first week is a bit more challenging!
- ▶ We will begin in a moment

2 **Special thanks**

- ▶ Calebe went by the church to turn on the sound system and enable us to live stream the services on our usual platforms
- ▶ Donald also has been working to set up things so that we could live stream in addition to doing this WebEx conference.
- ▶ Several of you have one to contribute to the benevolence fund knowing that others in the church may soon have need of it. Thank you for thinking of that without my prompting anyone. I believe that will be a great need in the near future.

3 **About offerings**

- ▶ I am working to set up online giving which will enable you to schedule regular offerings automatically.
- ▶ However, right now, please send your offerings to this address:
First Baptist Church Las Colinas
96 Misty Mesa Trl.
Mansfield, TX 76063-4854

4 **About our services**

- ▶ I hope we can resume services at some point in the near future, but we will meet electronically next week using this same format.
- ▶ That will hopefully give several people the opportunity to get headsets or speakers to have a better at-home experience.
- ▶ He will start the conference at 10 AM next week – actually about 9:30 AM – so Stephen Woodworth can continue to teach our family-integrated Bible study on 1 Corinthians.
- ▶ So I will send out an updated invitation later this week
- ▶ Drive-in church??

5 **Good news for the ladies**

- ▶ I subscribed our church to this WebEx service and we have unlimited broadcast time each day.
- ▶ That means that the ladies can continue to have their meeting electronically. So the pastor's wife can share the rest of her story in the near future at a time that you ladies work out. We will have Teresa send out an email for the next ladies meeting.

6 **Exceeding great and precious promises**

2 PETER 1:1-4

7 **It seems like everything is changing**8 **But not everything has changed**

- ▶ Some have said that our society will never return to the way it was. There will be more government intervention in our lives. The massive bailouts by the federal government will cause inflation. The price of gold will skyrocket along with the price of everything else. Our government is headed

Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

toward the collapse of our currency unless drastic action is taken. But all politicians note how to do is print more money and hand it out.

- ▶ But God never changes and His Word never changes. So while it is currently more difficult for us to meet together, it is ever more imperative that we cling tightly to God, His Word, and to one another.

9 **2 Peter 1:1-4**

- ▶ *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:1-4, KJV 1900)*

10 **2 Peter 1:1-4**

- ▶ *Simeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith equal in value to ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, because his divine power has bestowed on us all things that are necessary for life and godliness, through the knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence of character, through which things he has bestowed on us his precious and very great promises, so that through these you may become sharers of the divine nature after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire, (2 Peter 1:1-4, LEB)*

11 **Simeon Peter**

- ▶ While a few manuscripts say Simon Peter (the common Greek spelling of his name), the best textual evidence supports the manuscripts that say Simeon Peter (the Hebrew spelling of his name).
- ▶ Peter seems to be combining his Hebrew and Greek names to address a mixed audience of both Hebrew and Greek Christians.
- ▶ Simeon was the name with which he was born. The name Peter was given to him by Christ.
- ▶ So he remembers who he was at the same time that he knows who he now is Jesus Christ.

12 **Peter, the bondsman**13 **Exodus 21:2-6**

If thou buy a Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. 3 If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. 5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: 6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.

14 **Deuteronomy 15:16-17**

KJV -- And it shall be, if he say unto thee, I will not go away from thee; because he loveth thee and thine house, because he is well with thee; Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust it through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do

Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

likewise. (Deuteronomy 15:16–17, KJV 1900)

LEB -- *And then if it will happen that he says to you, 'I do not want to go out from you,' because he loves you and your family, because it is good for him to be with you; then you shall take an awl, and you shall thrust it through his earlobe and into the door, and he shall be to you a slave forever; and you shall also do likewise for your slave woman.* (Deuteronomy 15:16–17, LEB)

15 **What does a bondsman have?**

- ▶ He has his master and his family.
- ▶ All of his possessions are owned by the Master.
- ▶ His future is in control of the Master.
- ▶ His will is subject to that of the Master.
- ▶
- ▶ Both Peter and Paul used the same Greek word -- *doulos* -- to refer to their relationship to Jesus Christ. They considered it an honor to yield up their will and their future and their possessions to their Savior and Lord.

16 **Peter was also an apostle**

- ▶ An apostle is a "sent one"
- ▶ He is commissioned by Christ to share the Gospel
- ▶ He saw the resurrected Christ
- ▶ There are 17 individuals in the New Testament referred to as apostles – a number which includes Jesus Christ (Hebrews 3:1).
- ▶ There are no apostles any longer
- ▶ However, the Latin word for apostle was *missio* from which we get missionary – because they are sent by God to share the Gospel

17 **We are fellow receivers**

- ▶ *SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:* (2 Peter 1:1, KJV 1900)
- ▶ *Simeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith equal in value to ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.* (2 Peter 1:1, LEB)
- ▶ Obtained is better translated received and it is an unusual verb -- *lanthano* -- which means "to obtain by lot."
 - ▶ It is used in Luke 1:9 to refer to John being chosen by lot to go into the Temple Holy Place on the day that he was told about the birth of his son John the Baptist.
 - ▶ Peter is conveying the idea that it was God's sovereign action – rather than anything he might have done to deserve such a gift – that caused him to receive his faith.

18 **We have a precious and valuable faith**

- ▶ The words "as precious" translate the compound word *isotimon*, used only here in the New Testament.
 - ▶ It comes from *isos* ("equal") and *timē* ("honor, value").
 - ▶ The word *isotimon* was used for foreigners who had been granted the privileges of citizenship which were equal to those of the native-born (like a naturalized citizen today).
- ▶ The faith given them by God was of equal honor or privilege with that of the apostles' faith. Here Peter stresses that the faith of the apostles was no different from the faith of any believer.
- ▶ This is in stark contrast with Gnostic mysticism which has carried into sacramental theology of the

Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

Roman and Greek Orthodox churches.

19 **Our faith comes from Christ's righteousness**

- ▶ Peter uses the term faith here to refer to:
 - ▶ the teachings about Jesus Christ
 - ▶ the trust in Jesus Christ
- ▶ Our in this verse refers to Peter and the other apostles
- ▶ Our precious and valuable faith is made possible by the righteousness of Christ.
 - ▶ His righteous and sinless character as Savior and Redeemer
 - ▶ His righteous sense of justice and impartiality where he is no respecter of persons; he plays no favorites. He makes it possible for anyone – Jew or Gentile – apostle or non-apostle – to have the same faith

20 **Jesus is God**

- ▶ Peter here clearly makes a claim that is going to be difficult for many Jews to accept – that Jesus is God.
- ▶

21 **Jesus is God (2)**

- ▶ *Now to the one who is able to protect you from stumbling and make you to stand before his glory blameless with exultation, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time and now and for all eternity. Amen. (Jude 24–25, LEB)*
- ▶ *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:11, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18, KJV 1900)*
- ▶
- ▶

22 **Jesus is God (3)**

- ▶ *For I am the LORD thy God, The Holy One of Israel, thy Savior (Isaiah 43:3, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *I, even I, am the LORD; And beside me there is no Savior. (Isaiah 43:11, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *...Who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? Have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; A just God and a Savior; there is none beside me. (Isaiah 45:21, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *I am the LORD: that is my name: And my glory will I not give to another, Neither my praise to graven images. (Isaiah 42:8, KJV 1900)*

23 **Grace and peace – what we need now**

- ▶ Grace is the desire and ability to do the will of God
- ▶ Peace is the ability to confidently rest trusting in the care of Almighty God even though nothing around us supports a peaceful attitude
- ▶ Whenever these words are used together in the New Testament, Grace always precedes peace – because there is no peace without grace. Until we have experienced a relationship with Jesus Christ, there is no foundation for peace.
- ▶ How many of us could use some grace and peace right about now?

24 **Even better if it is multiplied**

Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

- ▶ Peter prays for his readers to have their grace and peace multiplied. Then he tells us the way to do that – through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.
- ▶ *Epignosei* refers to a full for additional knowledge beyond the normal experience. This implies an intimate and personal relationship as opposed to an academic knowledge of something.
 - ▶ *Where are you in your walk with Christ?*
 - ▶ *Do you simply know ABOUT him or are you walking WITH him?*
- ▶ Need more grace or peace? Get to know Jesus in His Word daily.

25 **The real deal**

- ▶ Peter believes that we need to pursue an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus Christ and take advantage of the "full knowledge" (*epignosei*) that comes from walking with Christ deeply in prayer and meditation on Scripture. In this way, we can be prepared to combat false teachers who claim to have a special knowledge (*gnosis*) which embodies a mysticism not based on Scripture.
- ▶ Many false teachers of that day claimed to have knowledge of Christ but then openly lived in immorality.

26 **Paul writing to the Colossians**

- ▶ *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (Colossians 1:9–10, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; (Colossians 2:2, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (Colossians 3:10, KJV 1900)*
- ▶

27 **Christ's divine power**

- ▶ The word *divine* is only used three times in the New Testament and Peter is clearly asserting that Christ power is because He is God.
- ▶ Peter loves the word *power* and uses it four other times in this epistle.
- ▶ What has this power given us? Everything that we need for spiritual vitality and godly living!
- ▶ He has called us into this life of godliness by His own glory and goodness – his moral excellence or praises. Christ attracts people who are enslaved by sin by his own moral perfection and beauty.
 - ▶ We must be different from the world in order to attract the world.

28 **Exceeding great and precious promises**

- ▶ *through which things he has bestowed on us his precious and very great promises, so that through these you may become sharers of the divine nature after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire, (2 Peter 1:4, LEB)*
- ▶ Give is really not the right word here.
- ▶ Bestow or endow is a better choice. It is a word that indicates the worth of the gift.
 - ▶ Peter uses the same word in 1:3
 - ▶ In Mark 15:45 the word is used to describes Pilate's giving of Jesus body to Joseph of Arimathea

29 **Promises we need now**30 **Lamentations 3:21-24**

Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

▶ *This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.* (Lamentations 3:21–24, KJV 1900)

31 **Isaiah 26:3**

▶ *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on thee: Because he trusteth in thee.* (Isaiah 26:3, KJV 1900)

32 **Exodus 15:26**

▶ *And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.* (Exodus 15:26, KJV 1900)

33 **About offerings**

▶ I am working to set up online giving which will enable you to schedule regular offerings automatically.

▶ However, right now, please send your offerings to this address:

First Baptist Church Las Colinas

96 Misty Mesa Trl.

Mansfield, TX 76063-4854