

A PROMISE INHERITED

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SESSION IN A SENTENCE:

Everything that God has said can be trusted because it is impossible for Him to lie.

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BACKGROUND PASSAGES:

Psalm 118; Hebrews 6

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SETTING:

God had promised to bring His people back into the land of promise, restoring His dwelling place and giving His people hope and a future. But upon their return, the new temple was not as great as Solomon's, the sacrifices offered did not result in the glory of the Lord descending like it had at the dedication of the first temple, and the promises of God seemed to be left unfinished. Yet God had promised that there would be a day when He would bless the world through Abraham and His glory would be revealed to the world. God is trustworthy, and His promises can be relied upon.

DAY 1

READ:

Psalm 118

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Psalm 118:8-9

NOTES

While most people are dependent upon their cell phones, there are those who try to avoid cell and wifi signals. In 2011, the BBC reported that a number of people had moved to Green Bank, West Virginia, for the specific reason that wifi and cell phone signals are banned there. The lack of signals in this mountain town isn't due to inaccessibility but to prevent signals from interfering with a number of important radio telescopes in the area. The largest of these radio telescopes is owned by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, which uses its technology to listen to low-level signals across the universe. Others are operated by the U.S. Military.

A small percentage of people (less than five percent of the population) suggest that they suffer from Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS). These individuals report that exposure to electromagnetic fields causes them great difficulty with their day-to-day function. While EHS is not recognized by the World Health Organization or the United States government, due to a lack of scientific evidence, those who have moved to Green Bank suggest that their conditions have dramatically improved.¹

While EHS may be disputed, the reality of sin and death cannot be. Everyone is born in sin, and the payment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). The way to find refuge from sin and death is to flee to the Lord Jesus Christ, to be hidden in Him. To take refuge in Christ is to trust that He has dealt with our sin by being our atoning sacrifice and has removed the penalty and the power of sin from us (Hebrews 2:17). By His blood, He cleanses us and protects us from the wrath to come.

Have you taken refuge in Christ? If not, will you do so today? If you have, with whom can you share this news?

DAY 2

READ:

Hebrews 6

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Hebrews 6:17

NOTES

When someone passes away, those who are the next of kin often are acknowledged by the deceased in a will. They are given the rights to certain portions of the deceased person's estate. Because their names have been recorded as being in the familial line, they are the recipients of what has been left behind.

When, by faith, we trust in Jesus Christ, we become heirs of the promise (Hebrews 6:17). God had promised to Abraham that he would become an heir of the world (Romans 4:13). This promise was not only to Abraham, but also to his offspring. In a similar way, Jesus told His disciples that the ones who are of the kingdom of heaven are those who are humble, and they will receive the inheritance of the world (Matthew 5:5).

An inheritance isn't something that an heir wonders if he or she will get. It is a legal certainty that they can bank their future upon. The certainty of an inheritance does not depend upon any other factor than the relationship that has been established.

In the good news of Jesus Christ, we have become heirs of the promise that God made to Abraham. God has made a legal declaration, swearing by Himself that He will give all those who trust in Christ a certain and secure future with Him forever. This inheritance isn't something that is earned by any good works. Instead, it is received as a gracious gift from our Father who is in heaven, who loves to lavish us with His mercy and promises us that He will give us a home with Him forever.

What does God's gracious gift of an inheritance teach you about His character?

DAY 3

READ:

Hebrews 6:13-20

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Hebrews 6:18

NOTES



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE #18: GOD IS TRUTHFUL

The Scriptures are clear that in God there is no falsehood (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). God represents things as they really are. Everything He says can be trusted because God guarantees the truth of everything He tells us. The call for humans to be honest and not to bear false witness is rooted in the utter truthfulness of our Creator. Telling the truth is one way we bear the image of God, whose Son is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

In C. S. Lewis’s classic work *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the two younger Pevensie children, Edmund and Lucy, are playing when they enter the wardrobe in the Professor’s house. Lucy, the youngest, claimed that the wardrobe led to a different world. When her brother Edmund followed her, he discovered that this mysterious world of Narnia was real. When the two children returned, Lucy shared with her older siblings, Peter and Susan, that Edmund had joined her in Narnia. Edmund denied it, however, saying that he was playing with Lucy and having fun.

Concerned about their youngest sister, Peter and Susan go to the Professor, the owner of the house. They express their concerns that Lucy is going mad and explain to the Professor what has happened.

“How do you know,” he asked, “that your sister’s story is not true?” His questions lead them to explain who has been more truthful to this point. “That’s the funny thing about it, sir,” said Peter. “Up until now, I would have said Lucy every time.”

At this point, the Professor’s suggestion to the two oldest Pevensie children is to consider the truthfulness of Lucy’s claims based on her character.²

While humans can be unreliable, character matters. How someone has behaved in the past will often give a clear indication as to how we should interpret their behavior in the present.

And though humans can be unreliable, God is always reliable, and He has never lied. The writer of Hebrews tells us that it is impossible for God to lie. For the God of all truth to be inconsistent with who He is would be the most massive contradiction in the universe. God’s word is truth (John 17:17), so He can be depended upon for what will come in the future.

What are some ways that God has been true to His word in the past?

DAY 4

READ:

Psalm 118

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Psalm 118:1-4

NOTES

“Keep Calm and Carry On.” The sign with this phrase, originating from the British government in 1939, was intended to produce resolve and encourage morale in preparation for the impending air raids during World War II. While almost 2.5 million copies of the poster were printed, few were ever publicly displayed. In 2000, a little-known copy was found, and it soon became a household decorative sign.

The British stoic thought of the Victorian age—keep a stiff upper lip and resolve in the face of trouble—sounds noble and vigilant, yet for many people, the advice is discouraging. In our anxious age with push notifications and constant social media checking, remaining calm is hard to do. Just stuffing your emotions or ignoring your feelings isn’t as easy as reading a sign and staying calm.

The Bible doesn’t call us to British stoicism, as though being a good Victorian-era citizen is the ideal to which we are to aim. Instead, being steadfast is a great description of what the Christian life is about. In the face of hardships and trials, Christians are to stand, keeping their feet firmly planted, and not be moved (Ephesians 6:14). The source of our steadfastness isn’t due to our great resolve; it comes from the steadfastness of the Lord Himself. Over and over, Scripture speaks of the steadfast love of the Lord, of His love that endures forever (Psalm 118:1-4). We have faith to stand strong because He is faithful. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

In an anxious age, the good news that we have is that our steadfastness is due to His steadfastness. He will hold us fast. We don’t just keep calm and carry on. We carry on because He holds us.

What are some ways that the Lord has kept you in times of difficulty?

DAY 5

READ:

Hebrews 6:13-20

FOCAL PASSAGE:

Hebrews 6:19

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing; Our
helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing: For
still our ancient foe Doth
seek to work us woe; His
craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.
Did we in our own strength
confide, Our striving would
be losing; Were not the right
Man on our side, The Man of
God's own choosing: Dost
ask who that may be? Christ
Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth,
His name, From age to age
the same, And He must win
the battle."³

—Martin Luther (1483-1546)

If you have spent any time on a boat out on a body of water, you know the danger of not paying attention to where you are and what is going on. If the motor of the boat is turned off and you are just sitting there, you will discover that over time the currents of the water and the breezes in the air will cause you to drift. Before you know it, you can find yourself in a dangerous spot where it may be too shallow or where there are rocks that can cause damage to the boat.

In the same way, the Scriptures warn us about spiritual drifting. The book of Hebrews calls us to pay close attention to the great salvation that we have received so that we do not drift away (Hebrews 2:1). Spiritual drifting often results in sinful and unbelieving hearts that will turn away from the living God and harden the heart against God and His promises (Hebrews 3:12,15).

Instead, as we consider Christ, we have an anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:19). This anchor affixes us to the truth of God's promises and keeps us from drifting away. When waves begin to roll and the winds start to blow, this anchor keeps us from turning away from the living God. By paying close attention to this great salvation that we have received and fixing our eyes upon Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), we can weather any storm, endure any trial, and resist any temptation. Our faith is not anchored in our feelings toward Jesus, nor is our faith anchored in our good deeds. Instead, our faith is anchored in the fact that God is wholly true and He keeps His promises to be our God.

How can you fix your eyes upon the promises of God today?

GROUP

NOTES

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"[T]o trust in man tends to make us mean, crouching, dependent; but confidence in God elevates, produces a sacred quiet of spirit, and sanctifies the soul."⁴

—Charles Spurgeon
(1834-1892)

POINT 1: God is trustworthy, demonstrating His greatness (Ps. 118:8-9; Heb. 6:13-16).

The psalmist reminds us to take _____ in the Lord because only He is fully _____.



What are some ways God has been trustworthy with His promises?

God promised Abraham that He would _____ him, give him a land, and _____ his people, and God fulfills that today through making a people out of those who _____ Christ.

POINT 2: God is trustworthy, manifesting His character (Heb. 6:17-18a).

God's oath was not only to Abraham but to his _____, which includes us, as we follow Christ, because He is _____ and _____ in wanting to call us to Himself.



Since God has committed Himself to His promises, what effect should this have on our lives?

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE #18: GOD IS TRUTHFUL

The Scriptures are clear that in God there is no falsehood (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). God represents things as they really are. Everything He says can be _____ because God guarantees the truth of everything He tells us. The call for humans to be honest and not to bear false witness is rooted in the utter truthfulness of our _____. Telling the _____ is one way we bear the _____ of God, whose Son is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).



How does God's unchanging character to keep His word give you assurance in Him?

POINT 3: God is trustworthy, anchoring His salvation (Heb. 6:18b-20).

NOTES

God's promise encourages us, as we flee for refuge in the Lord from sin and death, to _____ for His _____ found in Christ Jesus.



In what ways is God our refuge?

Similar to Melchizedek, Jesus is our _____ and _____ who atones for our sin and presents us before the Father as _____.



What confidence does Christ's work give you about your future?

MY RESPONSE

Because God is truthful and we are to follow in His ways, we are not to bear false witness and instead tell the truth at all times.

- **HEAD:** How can you be more careful about representing the truth of God in this world?
- **HEART:** What are some ways that you can delight in the truth of God's promises?
- **HANDS:** What areas of your life do you need to speak truthfully about so as to represent Christ faithfully to those around you?

VOICES from CHURCH HISTORY

"His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand."⁵

—Edward Mote (c. 1797-1874)