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‘Promised Us Deliverance.’

(II Timothy 4:16 – 18; Key verse - 18)

Intro: A quick reminder that there are two types of promises, one is an unconditional promise, meaning we do not have to do anything in order to obtain the promise other than being saved. And the other is a conditional promise meaning that the promise only holds true “if” one fulfills certain requirements.

However, regardless of which type of promise exists, neither of the two types of promises are of any comfort unless the believer is willing to take God at His Word and accept them by _____.

(Hebrews 11:6)

I. God has promised us _____ – II Timothy 4:18.

A. In Hebrews chapter eleven we find men and women to whom God made promises and in each case we see the word _____ connected with the deliverance, and even in those cases where they didn’t receive deliverance, they died in _____ believing and trusting God.

1. Not all _____ the deliverance as we think of deliverance from one’s immediate circumstances – **Hebrew 11:35 – 39.**

2. So, how do we explain verse 40 in light of **II Timothy 4:18**?

a. **Verse 40** – not only compares the Saints of the Old Testament, to the New Testament Saints, the one, (O.T.) having the future promises and the other (N.T.) having seeing those promises fulfilled in Christ.

b. **Verse 39** must be taken in _____ with verse 40 as the operative unspoken word here is the N.T. Believers were able to see the validity of the promises in the Messiah.

c. Christ was and is the fulfillment of the O.T. promises and with the presence of the Messiah in the lives of the early Believers, the assurance of God’s promises were _____.

3. And so, we have the historical records whether in the Bible or in the Antiquities, external to the Scriptures, of men and women who _____ to deny the faith, they chose death knowing that once the body died the soul and spirit were immediately with the Lord. (**Matthew 10:28; II Corinthians 5:6 – 8 & Philippians 1:20 – 24**)

4. That better thing was obviously that which follows the Redeemed after _____.

5. What is the one thing a typically sane person cherishes above all else? Is it not our _____! The Redeemed likewise, however, when it comes to our saving faith in Christ,

we do not fear death because in Christ we have the _____ of God of a better life.

6. And so, we have men and women of faith who _____ their faith greater riches than to deny the faith. **Hebrews 11:26** – “Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”

7. For reasons only known to God who is able to know the beginning from the end and all things in between, He _____ their choice of death over denial of their faith to resound to others that such faith as they possessed was very real, very genuine and they would have it no other way. (Conviction)

a. We have the example of the first martyrdom in this dispensation of grace in Stephen – **Acts 6:8 – 8:1 (Verses 55 – 60)**

b. Then of course in time ten of the disciples were also martyred as have many down through the ages and even in today’s world. (Communist countries)

c. Whether O.T. Saints or N.T., they are our _____ and a testimony to both the importance of living by faith, and if called upon, to die in faith as an example to one’s strength of convictions.

d. Foxe’s Book of Martyrs has quite a bit more history on this.

B. We should understand that when a Christian is living in the _____ of God for their life we will remain invincible until our ministry is _____. We all have an expiration date according to **Hebrews 9:22**, maybe it will be a natural death, death by a disease, or as a martyr, an accident of some form, God knows.

1. Regardless of how our death may occur, we should _____ to make sure we are walking according to His will, which by the way is the safest place for any of the Redeemed of the Lord to be.

2. Simply put, nothing is allowed to hurt us that is not a _____ of our fulfilling God’s will for our lives. It only makes sense even though we may not understand why someone who is fulfilling God’s will dies, too us it may seem a wasted life or a life terminated too early. It was God’s timing for which He owes us no explanation!

3. Again, for fear of being repetitive, God knows our beginning from our end and everything in between.

4. This is not _____, but faith in action, the ability through faith to accomplish His will through His methods and not in reaction to what Satan is doing.

5. Paul’s consenting to the martyrdom of Steven must have had some form of impact on him as he watched Stephen’s death asking God to forgive those who didn’t get it. And I believe this is why the Holy Spirit included it in the Scriptures when He did - **Acts 7:58**.

6. The promise is not that we will not experience difficulties or unpleasantness’ in this life, (**1 Peter 1:6 – 7**), and certainly we are not better than our Lord, Amen! Who could have guessed His death would be that many would to a saving faith in Him?