

The Oologah Informer
July 28th, 2013

"THE PROMISE" IN EPHESIANS
by Lucian Farrar, Jr.

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Guest Speaker: Russ Rowland

PM Sermon:

Vance Smith

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The Book of Job – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series:

Challenges Facing the Christian

This week's lesson:

"Understanding Fellowship"

Bob Hampton

God made a great promise to Abraham, saying, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 22:18). Although God made other promises to Abraham, this promise became the theme of the Bible. It was repeated to Isaac in Genesis 26:4 and to Jacob in Genesis 28:14. In Paul's sermon recorded in Acts 13, he said in verse 32, "And we declare to you glad tidings - - that promise which was made to the fathers." In his defense before King Agrippa for his accepting the Gentiles, Paul spoke of "the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers." (Acts 26:6). In Galatians 3:16, Paul explains the promise with these words: "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made." He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as many, but as of one, 'And to your seed,' who is Christ." In Christ all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians to prove that in Christ the Gentiles are equally blessed with the Jews. Our English word "Gentiles" is a transliteration of the Greek word for "Nations". The promise offers blessings to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews.

Paul said in Ephesians 1:13 that when the Ephesians believed in the gospel of salvation, they "were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." In the original Greek, Paul used the definite article "the" before promise. They were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise. They knew that 'the promise' had been fulfilled when they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and Paul laid his hands upon them and 'the Holy Sprit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:1-6).

Paul calls upon the Gentile Christians to "remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh, ... were without Christ, being aliens from he commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenant of promise (the promise, Greek text), having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus) you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:11-13).

In Christ Jesus, "we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." (Ephesians 1:7). At the close of Peter's second sermon, he explained the blessing of the "the promise" in Acts 3:25-26: "You are sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham,"And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." To you first, God having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning everyone of you from you iniquities." In Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost he said, "for the promise is to you (Jews) and to your children, and to all who are afar off (the Gentiles), as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:39).

Ephesians 1:22-23 declares that the church is the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:4 states, "There is one body." There is not one church for the Jews and another one for the Gentiles. Christ is "our peace" who has made both Jews and Gentiles one "that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through

the cross." (Ephesians 2:14-15). Jesus called the synagogue of those Jews who rejected Him "a synagogue of Satan" in Revelation 2:9.

Both Jews and Gentiles are to share in "one hope." (Ephesians 4:4). In Revelation 5:9, the redeemed in heaven praise Christ the Lamb with a new song: "for you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation." In Revelation 7:9, John saw "a great multitude which no one could number of all nations ... standing before the throne ... and ... saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the lamb!'" Speaking of heaven, Revelation 21:24 says, "And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light." In Christ all nations of the earth "shall be blessed." Paul begins his message to the Ephesians: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3). In Ephesians 3:4-6, Paul tells us that "the mystery" that has been revealed is "that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel." Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians to show that "the promise" made to the fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is fulfilled in Christ. Are you "in Christ"? Are you a partaker of His promise?

Announcements

Summer Series

Our Summer Series speaker this week will be Bob Hampton. His topic is "Understanding Fellowship."

Men's Meeting

Our next men's meeting will be next Sunday after evening services. Please let Russ know if you want to add anything to the agenda for the meeting.

Fellowship Meal

Our next Fellowship meal will be Sunday, August 11th, after morning services. Please make plans to participate in this time of fellowship with one another.

Recent Prayer Requests

Jerry Watson – seems to be improving.

Joyce Cash – having some difficulties recovering from her knee surgery.

Roy Daniel – is taking steroids for the fungus in his lungs.

Barbara Coats – will be going back to the doctor on the 2nd for the pain in her arms.

Daphne Miller – is home now.

Kenny (Patty Payne's husband) – is going to the doctor to have the lesion on his kidney checked for cancer.

Please keep all of these in your prayers.