



Today's Sermons
 Morning: The Aims of Christianity
 Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	42
Sunday AM Worship	51
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	n/a
Offering	\$1809

Attendance Averages for Past 9 Years:

2009				
AM Bible Study:	25	AM Worship:	39	PM Worship: 24
Wednesday B.S. 25				
2010				
AM Bible Study:	29	AM Worship:	40	PM Worship: 27
Wednesday B.S. 27				
2011				
AM Bible Study:	29	AM Worship:	42	PM Worship: 27
Wednesday B.S. 27				
2012				
AM Bible Study:	32	AM Worship:	43	PM Worship: 28
Wednesday B.S. 25				
2013				
AM Bible Study:	30	AM Worship:	43	PM Worship: 28
Wednesday B.S. 24				
2014				
AM Bible Study:	31	AM Worship:	45	PM Worship: 27
Wednesday B.S. 24				
2015				
AM Bible Study:	31	AM Worship:	43	PM Worship: 28
Wednesday B.S. 26				
2016				
AM Bible Study:	32	AM Worship:	43	PM Worship: 28
Wednesday B.S. 27				
2017				
AM Bible Study:	34	AM Worship:	46	PM Worship: 28
Wednesday B.S. 28				

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).

May God Richly Bless You As You Serve Him In the Coming New Year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Minister:

Tim Canup
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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
 “Back to the Bible”
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

WHEN GOD SAYS, “I WILL NOT FORSAKE YOU,” IS THAT AN UNCONDITIONAL PROMISE?

Roger Campbell

The Lord God is “*the God of all comfort*” (2 Corinthians 1:3). The Bible also says that “*God is faithful*” (1 Corinthians 1:9). When God makes promises, we can count on Him keeping His word. Because of our Lord’s fidelity to His word, the promises that He makes encourage, comfort, and reassure us.

One promise of Jehovah that really catches our eye is His promise not to forsake certain people. One instance of such a promise is found in Deuteronomy 31. Not long before Moses died, he “. . . *spake these words unto all Israel . . . be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee*” (Deuteronomy 31:1,6). In this case, the reassuring promise from God was that He would not forsake the nation of Israel.

Very similar language is found in Joshua 1, where we read that after Moses’ death, God encouraged Joshua with these words: “*There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee*” (Joshua 1:5). In this example, God promised one person, Joshua, that He would not forsake him.

Continued Inside

A third passage that employs nearly identical language is found in the Book of Hebrews: *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* (Hebrews 13:5). To whom was this special promise addressed? Christians. Yes, it appears to be a reference to the Old Testament statement recorded in Joshua 1:5, but it is obvious that the Holy Spirit applies the promise of God’s provisions and not forsaking His people to followers of the Lord Jesus.

In the three quotations above (Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5), we have not yet seen anything that would make us think that God’s promise not to forsake certain people has any terms or conditions attached to it. Is there anything in the context of these passages that might shed some light on whether or not such a promise is conditional, or not? There is, and it is found in Deuteronomy 31. Here is what is recorded ten verses after God’s promise not to fail or forsake the Israelites: *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?”* (Deuteronomy 31:16,17; all emphasis mine, rdc).

So, what did God tell the Israelites? He promised not to forsake them. But, He turned around and said that He *would* forsake them and refuse to be among them when they forsook Him. These truths plainly show that God’s promise to be with them and not forsake them *was conditional* – it was predicated on their continual obedience to Him. Once God established this principle in His dealings with the Israelites, that same principle applies in every other biblical reference to God’s promise not to forsake someone. It applied to His promise to be with Joshua (Joshua 1:5), and it likewise applies to His promise to be with and bless His children in the Christian era (Hebrews 13:5).

Another Old Testament verse that is helpful in studying this topic is 2 Chronicles 15:2, where these words of God to His people are recorded, *“The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you”* [emphasis mine, rdc]. While these words were spoken during the Old Testament dispensation, the principle involved is still relevant. It is the person that does the truth/walks in the light that has fellowship with God and the blessing of Jesus’ blood

cleansing him of his sins (1 John 1:6,7).

A child of God that ceases to walk in harmony with God’s word forfeits his fellowship with the Godhead and no longer has God’s precious promise not to fail or forsake him. The apostle Peter wrote of some saints of God that *“have forsaken the right way”* (2 Peter 2:15). Forsaking *“the right way”* is the same as forsaking *“the way of truth”* (2:2), and one who no longer walks in truth has forsaken the Lord. And, what does God do with those that forsake Him? That is right – He forsakes them. Do not be deceived by Satan’s appeal to the lust of the flesh or the message of his false teachers. A child of God still reaps what he sows. If he sows rebellion against the Godhead, then he will reap what no right-thinking person really wants: God will forsake him.

It is wonderful to know that God cares about us and wants what is best for us. It is encouraging to know that He promises not to forsake us. It is also sobering to know that, in reality, whether He forsakes you and me as individuals or stands with us, that all depends on you and me!

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“But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:9-12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 31 – Song Service
- Jan 7 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Jan 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell