

Philippians 3:15

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

Philippians 3:15

- What is the context?
 - 3:1 – 2 Rejoice, but beware
 - 3:3 – 7 Performance not the point
 - 3:8 – 11 Power, fellowship, death
 - 3:12 – 14 Not arrived but pressing on
 - 3:17 – 20 Follow faith not form

Philippians 3:15

- What is being promised?
 - God will reveal even this to you

Philippians 3:15

- How is this promise explained away?
 - God will reveal it only through the Word
 - Follow Paul's pattern
 - Weed out the apostle part
 - Convert Paul's practices into doctrine
 - This topic is New Law versus Old Law

Philippians 3:15

- How is this promise used badly?
 - I am mature, so you must follow me
 - Nobody's perfect
 - Behavior doesn't matter
 - Faith in Christ
 - It's all about getting to heaven

Philippians 3:15

- How do we act on this promise?
 - What is most important to me?
 - How do I measure success?
 - How do I deal with diversity?
 - Where is my pattern on earth today?
 - Am I open to revelation?

2 Corinthians 9:10

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

2 Corinthians 9:10

- What is the context (chapters 8 and 9)?
 - Example of sharing by the poor (8:2)
 - By way of equality (8:13 – 14)
 - Example of manna (8:15)
 - Our promises important (8:10 – 11, 9:5)
 - Spiritual riches prompts generosity (9:11)

2 Corinthians 9:10

- What is being promised?
 - 9:6 – 7 Benefits of sharing
 - 9:8 An abundance for every good work
 - 9:10 God causes seed to increase

2 Corinthians 9:10

- How is this promise explained away?
 - We give physically, God gives spiritually.

2 Corinthians 9:10

- How is this promise used badly?
 - You must give as I say

2 Corinthians 9:10

- How do we act on this promise?
 - What is most important to me?
 - How do I measure success?
 - Am I open to the unexpected?
 - Where is the line between fiscal responsibility and faith?
 - To what should I give?

Philippians 4:7

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

Philippians 4:7

- What is the context?
 - Contrasted to anxiety
 - Anxiety about what?
 - How is v8 connected?

Philippians 4:7

- What is being promised?
 - A result of prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, and requests is peace
 - This peace will guard your heart and mind

Philippians 4:7

- How is this promise explained away?
 - Psychological mumbo-jumbo
 - Anxiety relief surpasses your understanding, but not that of the psychologist
 - Guarding means level-headedness

Philippians 4:7

- How is this promise used badly?
 - Pray and your anxiety goes away.
 - Pray and your troubles go away
 - If you are still anxious, you have no faith

Philippians 4:7

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Use the Psalms as models
 - Review prayers of troubled people in the Old Testament: challenge God
 - Thank early and often
 - Request anxiety relief
 - Meditate on 4:8 and 3:8 – 11

James 1:5

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

James 1:5

- What is the context?
 - Count it all joy when you fall into various trials (1:2)
 - Let the lowly glory in his exaltation (1:9)
 - Blessed is the man who endures temptation (1:12)

James 1:5

- What is being promised?
 - Wisdom is given to those who ask in faith.

James 1:5

- How is this promise explained away?
 - Wisdom is found only in study of the Word
 - Prayer clears the mind (Philippians 4:7) so we make better decisions.
 - Wisdom comes with knowledge

James 1:5

- How is this promise used badly?
 - I prayed about this, so you have to do it my way.
 - Ask God whether I'm right on this.

James 1:5

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Like Biblical love (Romans 5:5), it's a gift.
 - Like being led by the Spirit (Romans 8:13 – 14), it's a promise
 - Ask with good reasons (James 4:1 – 3)

James 5:16

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

James 5:16

- What is the context?
 - Immediate context 5:13 – 18
 - Pray when suffering
 - Pray for the sick
 - Pray for forgiveness
 - Prayer works
 - James 1:5 – 6; 4:2 - 3

James 5:16

- What is being promised?
 - God responds to requests from the faithful

James 5:16

- How is this promise explained away?
 - “Anointing with oil” has changed (implying that other things have, too)
 - 4:15 “If the Lord wills...”
 - We can’t do miracles like Elijah

James 5:16

- How is this promise used badly?
 - Confessing sins in the assembly
 - Works for the truly righteous (not for you)

James 5:16

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Pray a lot (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - Praying about suffering is not “weak”
 - Pray about sickness; ask for a miracle
 - Pray about sin (Romans 14:23)
 - Pray for nature to wake up unbelievers

1 Corinthians 10:13

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

1 Corinthians 10:13

- What is the context?
 - 9:24 – 11:2 Successful vs unsuccessful attitudes for the faithful
- Train for the prize
- Remember Israel's bad example
- Remember how we are all connected
- Seek the profit of others, not myself

1 Corinthians 10:13

- What is being promised?
 - God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can withstand.
 - God will provide the way of escape

1 Corinthians 10:13

- How is this promise explained away?
 - You can always make the right choice

1 Corinthians 10:13

- How is this promise used badly?
 - Therefore, you are without excuse (focusing on guilt rather than grace)
 - The other choice is worse, so this choice is God's will.

1 Corinthians 10:13

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Laugh at yourself
 - Look for the escape route
 - Thank God during temptation

Romans 8:26 - 27

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

Romans 8:26 - 27

- What is the context? Chapter 8
 - v1, 4, 5 Walk by the Spirit
 - v6 Life and peace
 - v9, 11 The Spirit dwells in you
 - v10 Christ is in you
 - v13 By the Spirit, put to death the deeds of the body
 - v14 Led by the Spirit
 - v14 – 16 We are children of God
 - v17 We suffer with Him

Romans 8:26 - 27

- What is being promised?
 - How do I escape 7:22 – 25?
 - How does Chapter 8 work?
 - How am I suddenly competent to ask?
 - The Spirit intercedes because our prayers are defective.
 - This help results in prayers that are “according to the will of God.”

Romans 8:26 - 27

- How is this promise explained away?
 - The Spirit helps only through the Word.
 - This explains what happens in heaven, but it has no impact on you.

Romans 8:26 - 27

- How is this promise used badly?
 - The Spirit helps the righteous (not you)
 - Pray “if it be Thy will.”
 - My prayers should be groaning
 - Speaking in the tongues of angels
(1 Corinthians 13:1)

Romans 8:26 - 27

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Confidence based on faith
 - Do your best to explain yourself for your own benefit; God gets it
 - God’s plan accounted for my weakness; focus on grace not guilt

Romans 8:28

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

Romans 8:28

- What is the context?
 - See notes on Romans 8:1 – 27
 - v29 – 39
 - Purpose: conformed to the image of Jesus
 - Justified, glorified (past tense)
 - God has demonstrated love for us
 - God is the judge and justified us
 - Who is stronger than God?
 - We are superconquerors

Romans 8:28

- What is being promised?
 - All things work together for good to those who love God
 - Despite weakness (7:15 – 8:13)
 - Despite tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword.

Romans 8:28

- How is this promise explained away?
 - Everything is God's plan

Romans 8:28

- How is this promise used badly?
 - If bad things happen, you must not be among the called.

Romans 8:28

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Remember the things that happened to the ordinary Christians described in Acts, and the extraordinary progress of the gospel.
 - God will make “even this” contribute to the progress of the Kingdom,

Romans 15:5

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How do we act on this promise?

Romans 15:5

- What is the context?
 - 14:1 – 15:7 Fellowship between those of different strengths of faith
- What are the limits of acceptance?
- Pursue peace and how to edify others

Romans 15:5

- What is being promised?
 - The ability to be likeminded comes from God.
 - Philippians 3:15
 - John 17:20 - 23

Romans 15:5

- More unity passages
 - Romans 12:3 – 16
 - 1 Corinthians 8:1 – 13, 10:23 – 33, 12:12 – 31
 - Ephesians 4:1 – 16
 - Philippians 2:1 – 5

Romans 15:5

- How is this promise explained away?
 - Church leaders determine the essential points of unity
 - “Speak where the Bible speaks; be silent where the Bible is silent.”
 - Essentials versus liberty

Romans 15:5

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Understand the ditches
 - Meaningless endorsement
 - List of essentials
 - The objectives
 - Glorify God. How?
 - Receive one another. How?
 - Patience and comfort result

2 Peter 1:4

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

2 Peter 1:4

- What is the context?
 - Faith of the same value
 - Grace and peace multiplied
 - Granted all things pertaining to life and godliness
 - Great and precious promises
 - Faith develops into godly character

2 Peter 1:4

- What is being promised?
 - Many promises
 - May be partakers of the divine nature
 - Escape worldly lust
 - Developing godly character = fruitful
 - Entrance is abundantly supplied
 - My faith is of the same value as Peter's.

2 Peter 1:4

- How is this promise explained away?
 - The promise is heaven.
 - We escape the world and partake of the divine nature in physical death.
 - His divine power is provided only through the Word.

2 Peter 1:4

- How is this promise used badly?
 - If any of these character traits is imperfect, your election is not sure.
 - Entrance is abundantly supplied, but the road is narrow.
 - I believe, therefore my character is divine.

2 Peter 1:4

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Know God. How?
 - Know the promises.
 - Know the goal.
 - Use the tools.
 - Be called by glory and virtue, not self.
 - Monitor the progress of these character traits for assurance, not guilt.

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- Faith is God's standard of measurement
 - The just shall live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11)
 - Being re-connected with God starts in the present, not at Judgment (Ephesians 2:4 – 10)
 - Whoever has been born of God does not sin (1 John 3:9)

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- Can we make all good choices?
 - We already owe a debt to justice, so making all good choices from this point forward is not enough
 - We are damaged by our past bad choices
 - Romans 8:7, 13
 - Hebrews 9:14, 10:22

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- Can children be raised to make all right choices?
 - This is the essence of legalism, that making all right choices constitutes acceptance.
 - Rather, can children be raised to walk by faith? What will we teach them?

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- Is all acceptable faith the same?
 - Legalism sets a minimum standard for all
 - Certain maturity level required?
 - Nothing is "necessary," just an undefined "faith."
 - Luke 12:48 To whom much is given much is expected
 - Romans 12:3, Ephesians 4:7, 1 Peter 4:10

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- Can I know if God accepts the faith of another?
 - No. I can assert neither conclusion.
 - To do so is legalism, not faith.
- If I cannot know if God accepts you, how can I relate to you?
 - Edification
 - Love
- What difference does it make if I know whom God accepts?

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- Can I know if my faith is acceptable?
 - By faith, or it would be sight.
 - Based on evidence. Acceptance of evidence is not faith.
- If people conclude their faith is acceptable to God, but I think that the probability of that fact is low, what is my responsibility?

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- How do I assess whether I am deceiving myself about the acceptability of my faith?
 - Fruits of the Spirit
 - Excusing bad behavior as irrelevant or as acceptable
 - Acting on the promises (the other choice is to make up my own standards).

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- Problems with promises
 - Setting any minimum is legalism
 - Converting results to goals is legalism
 - Attendance
 - Fasting
 - Behavior
 - Good works
 - 2 Timothy 3:5 Denying the power results in self deception

How are Promises Related to Faith?

- The purpose of promises
 - Through these you may be partakers of the divine nature 2 Peter 1:4
 - Be diligent to make your calling and election sure 2 Peter 1:11
 - Evidence of the power of God to all John 17:21, Romans 15:6, 1 Peter 4:11, 1 Corinthians 6:20, 2 Corinthians 4:7, 9:13

Matthew 6:33

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

Matthew 6:33

- What is the context?
 - Sermon on the Mount: audience?
 - 5:3 – 12 Above the cares of this life
 - 5:13 – 16 Our purpose: cause others to glorify God
 - 5:17 – 6:18 Be perfect (consistent)
 - 6:19 – 34 Serve one Master
 - 7:1 – 27 Build wisely

Matthew 6:33

- What is being promised?
 - If we seek first the Kingdom, God will handle the food, drink, and clothing.
 - God may have a different standard of living in mind.
 - What we have may be from God for His purposes.

Matthew 6:33

- How is this promise explained away?
 - You will have spiritual food (the Word), spiritual drink (Jesus' blood) and spiritual clothing (good deeds).
 - You still have to do your part.
 - The Lord helps those who help themselves.

Matthew 6:33

- How is this promise used badly?
 - If you lack food, drink, or clothing, it is due to not seeking the Kingdom or a lack of righteousness.
 - Earning money is bad.
 - Giving away your living shows faith.

Matthew 6:33

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Context:
 - Above the cares of this life
 - Cause others to glorify God
 - Be consistent
 - Serve one Master
 - Build wisely
 - God will provide (2 Corinthians 9:6 – 11)

Colossians 1:9 - 12

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

Colossians 1:9 - 12

- What is the context?
 - Are we in the group for whom Paul prayed?
 - Did Paul expect his prayer to be answered in the way he asked?

Colossians 1:9 - 12

- What is being promised?
 - Knowledge, wisdom, understanding, patience
 - To walk worthily
 - To be pleasing, fruitful, strengthened, and qualified.

Colossians 1:9 - 12

- How is this promise explained away?
 - The prayer may or may not be answered
 - This was for first century Christians
 - If you study hard, you will develop these characteristics

Colossians 1:9 - 12

- How is this promise used badly?
 - I prayed about it, so my decision has God's blessing.

Colossians 1:9 - 12

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Note: Using your talents and resources is expected of a good servant.
 - Is my strength, patience, and endurance according to God's power or mine?
 - Am I fruitful and increasing?

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- What is the context?
- What is being promised?
- How is this promise explained away?
- How is this promise used badly?
- How do we act on this promise?

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- What is the context?
 - Subject of the letter: grace.
 - Descriptions of grace (1 – 3)
 - Results of grace (4 – 6)
 - 3:16 – 19 The objective
 - 3:20 – 4:10 First result of grace: unity
 - 4:1 Worthiness implies unity
 - 4:7, 16 Unity is not uniformity

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- What is being promised?
 - Through the leadership of special people:
 - Unity of the faith (Philippians 3:15)
 - Knowledge of the Son of God (Colossians 1:9 – 12, Ephesians 1:17 – 19, 3:14 – 19)
 - To a perfect person (Matthew 5:48, John 17:20 – 23, Hebrews 12:23)

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- What is being promised? (continued)
 - Through the leadership of special people:
 - To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (2 Peter 1:4)
 - No longer tossed about like children (1 Peter 2:2, 1 Corinthians 10:13, James 1:5)
 - Speaking the truth in love (2 Thessalonians 3:5, Romans 5:5)

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- How is this promise explained away?
 - We never come to a complete knowledge or stature on earth.
 - Members of the church always are at different levels, so the whole body is never mature on earth.

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- What is the result of those explanations?
 - Jesus' prayer failed (John 17:20 – 23).
 - Unity in the church on earth is not possible (Philippians 3:15)
 - Therefore, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are still with us. The apostles and prophets are with us in print only.

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- How is this promise used badly?
 - Today's evangelists, pastors, and teachers are empowered by Jesus and have authority over others.
 - Promises concerning overcoming come true only after Judgment.

Ephesians 4:11 - 24

- How do we act on this promise?
 - Believing these promises assures us that these objectives can be reached through the power of God.
 - Unity is not "giving in" but "bearing with."
 - Knowing the Word is important.
 - Evaluate personal consistency.
 - Divine nature is available.
 - Wisdom and love are gifts.

**Some of the Promises
about Having Godly Character**

- Colossians 1:3 – 12
 - Because of our faith and love (v4)
 - Knowledge of His will
 - Wisdom and understanding
 - Walk worthily, fully pleasing, qualified
 - Fruitful and increasing in knowledge
 - Strengthened for patience...with joy
 - Are these promises present or future?

**Some of the Promises
about Having Godly Character**

- Ephesians 1:15 – 19
 - Because of our faith and love (v 15)
 - Wisdom, revelation, enlightened, hope
 - Know the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
 - His power toward us who believe
 - Are these promises present of future?

**Some of the Promises
about Having Godly Character**

- Ephesians 3:14 – 21
 - Because of our faith and love (v 17)
 - Strengthened through His Spirit
 - Comprehend the love of Christ
 - Filled with all the fullness of God
 - Exceedingly...according to the power that works within us
 - Are these promises present of future?

**Some of the Promises
about Having Godly Character**

- Philippians 4:6 – 9
 - The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds.
 - The God of peace will be with you.
 - Are these promises present of future?

**Some of the Promises
about Having Godly Character**

- 2 Peter 1:1 – 11
 - Has given to us all things for ... godliness
 - Have been given great promises
 - He who lacks these things is shortsighted
 - Do we only escape the corruption of the world only in death?
 - (v 11) Is entrance into the Kingdom only future?

**Some of the Promises
about Having Godly Character**

- Ephesians 4:11 – 24
 - Unity of the faith
 - Knowledge of the Son of God
 - Perfect
 - The stature of the fullness of Christ
 - No longer tossed about in doctrine
 - Grow up in all things into Him
 - Are these promises present of future?

**How do We Obtain the Promises
about Having Godly Character?**

- Philippians 4:6 Prayer with thanks
- Philippians 4:8 Conscious thought control
- 2 Peter 1:5 Diligence
- Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks
- 1 Peter 2:2 The Word
- Ephesians 4:15 – 16 Speaking the truth in love...every part doing its share

What is Acceptable Effort?

- Hebrews 11:6 Faith
- Hebrews 12:28 Grace, by which we serve acceptably
- Ephesians 1:6 The glory of His grace by which He made us accepted
- 2 Corinthians 5:9 Make it our aim...to be well pleasing to Him

Can We be Confident of Acceptability?

- 2 Corinthians 5:1 – 8
 - God has prepared us...who has given us the Spirit (v 5)
 - If we walk by faith (v 7)
 - If we are well pleased to die (v 8)
- Ephesians 3:12 Through the faith of Him
- Ephesians 1:6 Made us accepted by grace
- Hebrews 4:14 – 16 Boldness because Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses.

Can We be Confident of Acceptability?

- Hebrews 10:10 – 22
 - Boldness (v 19) and full assurance (v 22)
 - We have been dedicated to godly purposes
 - We have been perfected (v 14, 22)
 - No memory of sin (v 17 – 18)
 - Hearts and conscience clean (v 22)
- Hebrews 10:32 – 39 Remember past successes of faith

Promises of Rescue

- Romans 8:1 – 4
 - To those who walk according to the Spirit
 - Free from the law of sin and death
 - Fulfill the law: we act out the illustration
 - The cycle of failure is broken (ch 7)
 - The law of the Spirit of life in Christ
 - Not continuously forgiven but a new “law”

Promises of Rescue

- Romans 1:16 – 17
 - What is the gospel?
 - What is salvation?
 - What is righteousness?
 - What is the standard of judgment under law?
 - What is the standard of judgment under faith?

Promises of Rescue

- Romans 3:24 – 28
 - What is redemption?
 - Justifier of the one who has the faith of Jesus
 - By the law of faith, not the law of works
 - What does God call faith?

Promises of Rescue

- Romans 4:1 – 25
 - Faith is counted as righteousness
 - What is the context of the quotation in v3?
 - Law brings about wrath (v15)
 - To those who are of the faith of Abraham
 - Not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body
 - It was not written for his sake alone
 - What is faith?

Promises of Rescue

- Romans 5:1 – 11
 - Justified by faith, access by faith
 - Justified by His blood
 - Having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him
 - Having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Promises of Rescue

- 1 Corinthians 6:11 – 12
 - You were washed, sanctified, justified
 - All things are lawful; new standard of measurement.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 – 21
 - Walk by faith
 - The love of Christ compels us
 - Reconciled
 - That we might become the righteousness

Promises of Rescue

- Galatians 2:16 Justified by the faith of Jesus
- Galatians 3:13 – 22
 - Redeemed
 - Promise of the Spirit through faith
 - The promise by the faith of Jesus
- Ephesians 1:7 – 14 Redeeming the faithful
- Ephesians 2:1 – 10 By grace through faith
- Colossians 1:13 – 14
 - Redeemed, forgiven, through His blood
 - Conveyed into a new system

Promises of Rescue

- Colossians 1:22 – 24 Reconciled through His death if you continue in faith.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13 Salvation through sanctification by the Holy Spirit and faith in the truth
- 2 Timothy 1:10 Abolished death and brought life through the gospel
- Titus 2:14 Redeemed and purified
- Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness but mercy

Promises of Rescue

- Hebrews 10:10 – 22
 - Sanctified by the offering of His body
 - One sacrifice for sins forever
 - He perfected forever those who are being sanctified
 - Where there is remission, there is no longer an offering for sin
 - Let us draw near with a pure heart in full assurance of faith

Promises of Rescue

- 1 Peter 1:13 – 24
 - Rest your hope fully on grace
 - Redeemed not by aimless traditions but with the precious blood of Jesus
 - Who through Him believe; faith and hope
 - Through the Word
 - This is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.
- 1 Peter 2:24 He bore our sins that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness

Promises of Rescue

- 1 John 1:7 – 2:6
 - If we walk in the light, we have fellowship
 - Walk as He walked
 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us
 - If we keep His commandments
- 1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

Promises of Rescue

- Faith is accomplishing what is humanly impossible but promised by God through His power and for His glory.
 - Matthew 19:26 “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
 - 1 Peter 4:11 “...with the ability which God supplies that in all things God may be glorified...”

Promises of Rescue

- What part of rescue can we accomplish that is humanly impossible?
 - Claiming forgiveness is humanly possible
 - Redemption implies a new master
 - Hebrews 2:15 No fear of death
 - Romans 8:13 Through the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body
 - Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with all might...for all patience and longsuffering with joy

Promises of Rescue

- How closely can we resemble Jesus?
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 Are being transformed
 - Romans 8:29 Conformed to the image of His Son
 - Romans 3:26 Justifier of the one who has the faith of Jesus
 - Hebrews 2:11 Not ashamed to call them brethren
 - 2 Corinthians 7:1 Perfecting holiness