Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] The Priority of the Promise
[Text] Galatians 3:15-20; Genesis 9:11-17; Matthew 5:17-20; Exodus 16:22-26; Genesis 15:1-6
[Use] November 5, 2011

What is a promise? The dictionary defines a promise as “a declaration that something will or will not be done, an express assurance on which expectation is to be based, a vow.” As we consider what a promise means, reflect on these quotes that speak of promises.

- Promises are like babies: easy to make, hard to deliver. ~Author Unknown
- Half the promises people say were never kept, were never made. ~Edgar Watson Howe
- It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath. ~Aeschylus
- The best way to keep one's word is not to give it. ~Napoleon Bonaparte
- When a man takes an oath... he's holding his own self in his own hands. Like water. And if he opens his fingers then - he needn't hope to find himself again. ~Robert Bolt
- Never take a solemn oath. People think you mean it. ~Norman Douglas
- Promises are like crying babies in a theater, they should be carried out at once. ~Norman Vincent Peale
- Eggs and oaths are easily broken. ~Danish Proverb
- Nothing weighs lighter than a promise. ~German Proverb
- Promises and pie crusts are made to be broken. ~Jonathan Swift
- An acre of performance is worth a whole world of promise. ~William Dean Howells
- Losers make promises they often break. Winners make commitments they always keep. ~Denis Waitley
- We must not promise what we ought not, lest we be called on to perform what we cannot. ~Abraham Lincoln
- Promises are like the full moon, if they are not kept at once they diminish day by day. ~German Proverb
- A promise is a cloud; fulfillment is rain. ~Arabian Proverb
- Promise little and do much. ~Hebrew Proverb
- Promise only what you can deliver. Then deliver more than you promise. ~Author Unknown

Can anybody keep that many promises? God can. Our Sabbath school lesson this week looks at Paul's focus on a promise made to Abraham. Christians in Galatia were being led astray on that promise by pointing to the law. In essence some taught that unless you obey the law, you void God's promise of salvation. Paul destroys their argument. He teaches that the coming of the law did not change the promise. The law came to show how much we need the promise. The promise is not based on our sinfulness but on God's faithfulness.

God promises salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ. We can choose to, by faith, accept this promise. We do not void this guarantee, no matter how many promises we've broken. And when we genuinely accept this gift, it will transform our lives. I promise.
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