

GOD MEANS WHAT HE SAYS

2Pet.3:1-9

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Sometimes people say things they do not mean and/or make promises they do not intend to keep.
2. God always means what he says and never makes promises he does not intend to keep. Cf. 2Pet.3:9; 1Cor.1:9a; 1Th.5:24; 2Th.3:3a; Heb.10:23.
3. To say that God means what he says necessarily implies that he speaks to us. That being true:

II. DISCUSSION

A. WE FIRST RAISE AND ANSWER THE QUESTION: HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US IN THIS DISPENSATION?

1. He speaks to us through his Son, Jesus Christ, his official and authoritative spokesman for this dispensation, Heb.1:1-3; Mt.17:5; Jno.17:48-50.
2. His Son, in turn, speaks to us through his chosen Spirit-guided, Spirit-empowered Apostles, his earthly Ambassadors, to whom he has given authority to bind and to loose on earth what has been bound or loosed in heaven, to officially preach the gospel of Christ to all nations, to every creature, Jno.17:8,18,20,21; Mt.28:18,19; Mk.16:15,16; Mt.16:18,19; 18:18; Jno.20:21-23; 2Cor.5:17-20; Jno.14:25,26; 15:26,27; 16:7,13-15; Lk.24:44-53; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-4; Eph.3:1-5; Gal.1:11,12.
3. His chosen, Spirit-guided, Spirit-empowered Apostles went forth preaching the word to all men as commissioned. They accomplished their mission while preaching it orally or verbally and then wrote it down that men of all time might have access to what God has said to us through His Son by means of his Apostles through the written word, Mk.16:19,20; 1Jno.1:1-5; Col.1:3-6; Rom.10:17,18; Jno.20:30,31; Eph.3:3,4; 5:17.
4. We hasten to add – this is the only way God speaks to us now!

B. SOME BIBLE EXAMPLES IN PROOF OF GOD MEANING WHAT HE SAYS.

1. God meant what he said when he commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden, Gen.2:16,17; 3:1-3,6ff.
2. God meant what he said when he told Lot and his family to leave wicked Sodom and not to look back, Gen.19:12,17,22; Cf. V.26.
3. The example of Nadab and Abihu (Lev.10:1,2) illustrates that God meant what he said about the priests under the Law burning incense in the authorized manner. Cf. Exo.30:7-9; Lk.16:12,13.
4. The example of Uzzah touching the ark of God (2Sam.6:6,7) proves once again that God means what he says. For God had said that, on moving the tabernacle while in the wilderness wanderings, “they shall not touch any holy thing,” which included the ark of God, Num.4:15
5. If God meant what he said then, what makes anyone think he, by chance, doesn’t mean what he has said to us in this dispensation? If then, why not now?

C. NOW TO SOME APPLICATION OF THIS OBVIOUS TRUTH IN THIS DISPENSATION CONCERNING WHA GOD HAS SAID TO US.

1. God means what he says about the penitent, confessing believer being saved when he is baptized in water in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38; 9:6-9; 22:12-16; 10:44-47; 1Pet.3:21.
2. God means what he says about holy living, Rom.12:1,2; 1Pet.1:13-16; 4:15,16; Col.3:1-8; Rev.21:8; 1Cor.6:9-11; Gal.5:19-21; Eph.5:1-5.
3. God means what he says about discipline of the saints who walk disorderly; about the action the local church is to take:
 - a. Toward those overtaken in a fault, Gal.6:1; 1Th.5:14a; Ac.8:20-24; Jas.5:19,20.
 - b. Toward those walking disorderly who have been admonished about their sins but have refused to repent and return to faithful service, 2Th.3:6; 1Cor.5:1-13.
 - c. Toward the incorrigible; those beyond correction or amendment; irreclaimable; can’t be brought to repentance, even with disciplinary action by the church, Mt.18:15-17; 2Tim.3:1-5; Eph.4:17-19; 1Tim.4:1,2; Heb.6:4-6; 10:28-31.
4. God means what he says about marriage, divorce and remarriage, Gen.2:23,24; Mal.2:16; Mt.19:1-9; Rom.7:1-3 (Cf. Mk.6:16,17); 1Cor.7:2-5,10-13,39; Heb.13:4.
5. God means what he says about giving of our means as prospered, 1Cor.16:1,2; 2Cor.9:6,7; Ac.20:35.

6. God means what he says about assembling with the saints for work and worship, Heb.10:23-25.
 - a. Note: This says “the **assembling** of ourselves together”; not “the **assembly**”, as of the 1st day of the week assembly alone!
 - b. The N.T. reveals that the saints as “they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Ac.2:42):--
 - (1) Assembled for worship on the 1st day of the week, Ac.20:7; 1Cor.11:17-29; (1Cor.16:1,2); Eph.5:19; Ac.12:1-5.
 - (2) Assembled for disciplinary purposes, 1Cor.5; 2Th.3:6.
 - (3) Assembled for the purpose of hearing evangelistic work rehearsed, Ac.14:26,27.
 - (4) Assembled for the edification work of the church, Ac.14:21,22; 20:28; 1Pet.5:1-3; Heb.13:17; 1Th.5:11; Ac.9:31; 11:25,26; Rom.14:19; 1Cor.14:4,5,12,26; Eph.4:11-16.
7. God means what he says about eternal life and how to obtain it, Tit.1:2; 1Jno.2:24,25; Rom.2:4-11; 8:24,25.
8. God means what he says about the 2nd Coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the judgment of all men by Jesus at that time, 2Pet.3:1-9; Ac.24:15; 2Cor.5:10; Heb.9:27; Jno.5:28,29; Mt.6:19-21; 1Tim.6:11,12; 2Tim.6:17-19; Jno.17:3; 1Pet.1:3-5,9; 2Pet.1:5-11; 2Th.1:6-10

III. CONCLUSION

1. What a blessing it is to know we believe in and serve the God of all comfort (2Cor.1:3) and the prayer hearing God (Psa.65:1,2), the God of grace and mercy whose blessings are abundant, and one who speaks to us, and means what he says in his blessed promises.
2. But we must remember that while he is a God of goodness, he is also a God of severity, Rom.11:24; Cf. Heb.10:26-21.