

Richmond Hill Baptist Church

December 18, 2011

Unwrapping Christmas: Lessons from the Lineage of Christ – The Promise Keeper

Prelude

Call to Worship: *We Three Kings*

Welcome: Merry Christmas and welcome to the Richmond Hill. Thanks for coming. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate when it comes by. Take a moment and greet one another.

Sing: *Angels We Have Heard on High, What Child is This, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Children's Corner: Advent Wreath – Matthew Fergel

Announcements:

1. Family Christmas Party, Dec 18, 3-6 pm, sledding, skating, carolling, reindeer
2. Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 5 pm
3. Christmas Day Service 10:30 am
4. New Years Eve Party, Menno Simmons Gym, 6-9 pm

Offering: Lottie Moon DVD: Dated Videos, Testimonies, Cara Simpson (Madagascar)

Offertory: *O Come Emmanuel*

Sermon: **Unwrapping Christmas: Lessons from the Lineage of Christ**

The Promise Keeper (Matthew 1:1)

Most folks today are skeptical of political promises. We have seen too many politicians make campaign promises to get elected and overlook their promises once in office.

In a recent typical question respondents were asked how often do political parties keep their election promises--most of the time, only some of the time, or hardly ever. Almost 90 percent said promises were kept only some of the time (56%) or hardly ever (32%). Only about one in ten (10%) said promises were kept most of the time.

One guy said: Vote for the person who promises the least--the'll be the least disappointing.

It makes you wonder how many promises do you make that you never keep.

Promises at work. Promises to your spouse. Promises to your kids. Promises to God.

Unwrapping Christmas: Lessons from the Lineage of Christ The Promise Keeper (Matthew 1:1)

Matthew 1:1

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham

Promise in the OT:

Genesis 22:17-18

I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Fulfillment as seen in the NT:

Galatians 3:26-29

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

David

Promise in the NT:

2 Samuel 7:12-16

When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

Fulfillment as seen in the NT:

Acts 13:22

*After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'*²³ *"From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.*

God keeps his Promise! From rainbows to the manger: He is the Promise Keeper.

God's Promises Are Reassuring.

Sometimes we have our doubts about God. I find that God's track record gives me confidence that I can trust Him.

There are hundreds of OT prophecies or promises fulfilled in the NT.

(Faith can replace our Doubt)

God's Promises Are Encouraging.

Sometimes life is overwhelming and we need some encouragement. I find that God's Word is filled with Promises that I can count on.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

My God shall supply all my needs according to his riches.

God will never leave me or forsake me.

If you believe in me you will not perish but have everlasting life.

2 Peter 3:13

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

<http://www.365promises.com/>

(Hope can replace our Despair)

God's Promises Are Challenging.

I am coming back so be ready because it will happen when you do not expect him.

Matthew 24:44

Be on guard and be alert!

Mark 13:33

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 10:32-33

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5

(Love can replace our Apathy)

God’s Promises Are Reassuring.

God’s Promises Are Encouraging.

God’s Promises Are Challenging.

Promise Keepers:

To be a Promise Keeper means that you are committing yourself to growing in the process of becoming like the ultimate promise keeper, Jesus Christ.

Response: O Come All Ye Faithful

1. Thank God for a promise.
2. Claim a Promise (help, wisdom, salvation)

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Business Session: Xerox Contract