

POSITIVE PROMISES
Bible Baptist Church, 2004?
Harmony M.B.C., September 23, 2007 (Morning), August 6, 2016

2Co 1:20 For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

amhn amen *am-ane*': of Hebrew origin Nma; TDNT-1:335,53; particle indeclinable: 1) firm

1a) metaph. faithful

2) verily, amen

2a) at the beginning of a discourse-surely, truly, of a truth

2b) at the end-so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled. It was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or discoursed, had offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded Amen, and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.

The word "amen" is a most remarkable word. It was transliterated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best known word in human speech. The word is directly related—in fact, almost identical—to the Hebrew word for "believe" (amam), or faithful. Thus, it came to mean "sure" or "truly", an expression of absolute trust and confidence. (HMM)

Every age of man has its special problems of which all have a common root. That root is sin. Every woe inherited by man stems from the presence of sin upon the earth. It has never been imagined that Adam and Eve were faced with any problems in the unpolluted garden.

Depression of humans began after we were evicted from the garden. We find Cain committing murder and then wailing about what a terrible state he was in now that as he said in Genesis 4:13-14 "... My punishment *is* greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, *that* every one that findeth me shall slay me."

In regard to people in depressed and despondent conditions, we find this said in scripture about Esau in Genesis 27:34 (after Jacob had stolen his birthright which he had actually sold for a bowl of lentil soup): "he cried with a great and exceeding

bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, *even* me also, O my father.”

By the time the children of Israel were led out of Egypt, griping was firmly entrenched in human behavior

So were negative viewpoints and the pessimism that generated them

By the 21st century depression, griping, negative viewpoints and pessimism as a behavior pattern had come to be a cultural heritage among most if not all cultures on earth.

Today, a significant number of people in our society are dependent on some kind of mood enhancing drug just to make it through the day. In 2011, 254 million prescriptions were written for just antidepressant drugs, resulting in nearly \$10 billion in costs for antidepressants alone in the U.S; that’s one antidepressant prescription for every 3 people in the U.S. At an all time record high, people are using mood altering drugs; either illegal or prescription...both have the same effect...the only difference between them is that the law has said one is illegal. We don’t know whether this drug dependency of America is an unplanned conspiracy by doctors seeking the easiest route to treating patients or the unplanned conspiracy of a human society which saw an opportunity to indulge a carnal weakness and took it. The end results are the same. Americans, and maybe most of the urbanized world, are managing depression with drugs, griping, negative viewpoints and pessimism.

Jesus Christ came with promises in His hand guaranteed to give us another pathway. Our text sets the rule. “All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” Let’s spend some time looking at this truth and what it can mean for our lives as the children of God.

I. The first promise: The salvation Christ brings is only “YES”...there isn’t a “NO.”

- **It is only “yes” and “so be it” when He intends to save one of His people**
 - > **Mt. 1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
 - > **John 10:27-28** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*
 - > **Rom 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. \
 - > **Ephesians 4:8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, **he led** captivity captive, **and gave** gifts unto men.

> **Romans 8:28-39**

■ **Yes you have been saved from your sins.**

■ **Yes, you have been justified and set apart unto God.**

> **1Co 6:11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

> **1Co 1:2** Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

■ **Yes, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.**

> **2Co 1:21-22** Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

> **Eph 1:13** In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

> **Eph 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

II. The second fact of yes and amen in Christ: Your Christian life should all be yes and amen to the glory of God by you.

■ Before I go into this, I need to explain why this is so: Once a person has become a spiritual child of the Almighty God, his/her life and steps are ordered by the Lord.

■ Once a person is born again, the power of the divine life becomes the source of proper thought and the means by which we are able to understand and follow the Lord. This puts us in a new frame of life in which every part is connected to our relationship with Christ.

■ Now, in order to emphasize that every aspect of your new life in Christ is yea and amen we will need to look at aspects of it that believers tend to NOT see as yea and amen.

■ People tend NOT to see yes and amen in the face of obstacles to getting what they want.

> How do you look at getting and having basic needs or other blessings? Do we sometimes whine when we can't have certain things (Do we yearn for the leeks and onions of Egypt?). Do we sometimes get apprehensive when something is wanted or needed and we don't know what we are going to do to get it?

> People tend NOT to see yes and amen in the face of things that irritate them, or things that invade their space, or things that intrude upon their

preoccupations.

- > How many times are we tempted to get frustrated or irate when something or somebody “gets on our nerves?”
- > How many times are we tempted to get irate when someone interferes with what we are doing or makes demands on us when we are trying to accomplish some task?
- > As humans, the problem we have with both seeing and maintaining that yes and amen attitude is hindered by setting our expectations up as an agenda that presumes that the Lord must follow it, instead of looking directly at the **agenda that the Lord has set for us.**
 - Jonah had an agenda that could be called “fleeing from the duties of the Lord.” The Lord had an agenda for Him that could be called “meet the giant fish...then go preach at Ninevah.”
 - Paul had an agenda that said, “tear up a bunch of churches, and kill a few Christians.” The Lord had an agenda for him that said “Meet Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, then become my apostle to the gentiles.”
 - You and I often get out of bed on a given morning with plans for what we are going to do that day clearly laid out; then the Lord intervenes and we end our day having done things that we had no idea we were going to do.
 - **Philip. 2:3** *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

■ **“All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”**

III. Now, let’s think about the third thing that should be yes and amen to us - The lives of other believers should be yes and amen to the glory of God.

■ Now the first thing we may think when a statement like this is made by a preacher is that the **lives of other believers** (not just us alone) **should all reflect a positive aspect** and say amen to the things related to God’s glory. And this is true.

■ But, this is not what I want us to focus on. What I want us to focus on is this: **We should view other believer’s lives in a positive light.**

■ Where do we get into trouble with this idea? First, **It is in passing a verdict on our brothers or sisters based on evidence we do not have:**

- > **(Judging) Rom. 14:4** Who art thou that **judgest** another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.
- > **Rom. 14:13** Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his*

brother's way.

- > **(Accepting) Rom. 15:7** Wherefore **receive** ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

■ **We get in trouble regarding esteem for, and humility in the presence of, other believers) John 13:14** If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to **wash one another's** feet.

- > **Philip. 2:3** *Let* nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem** other better than themselves.

■ **We get in trouble with the yes and amen regarding the level of love for believers - John 13:34** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

■ **We get in trouble with the yes and amen regarding positive support for other believers - Gal. 6:2** Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

■ **We get in trouble with the yes and amen regarding a positive attitude toward the shortcomings of others [benevolence]) - Eph 4:2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

- > **Col 3:13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

■ **We get in trouble with the yes and amen Regarding being a positive influence in other believer's lives - 1Th. 5:11** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

IV. We should view God's treatment of other believers in a positive light.

■ Sometimes Christians imagine that when another believer goes through some great tragedy or trial they have been particularly bad and are as some say "getting what they deserve."

■ As hard as it is to hold to the reality of it, the Lord's treatment of His people is only yes and amen in nature.

- > **Hebrews 12:** The things that scripture calls trials come to all believers as a sign from God. It is a sign or evidence of the Father-and-child relationship:
6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, **God dealeth with you as with sons**; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we

gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness. {after...: or, as seemed good, or, meet to them }

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

> **I Peter 4:**

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

> **Psalms 37:**

23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. {*ordered: or, established*}

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him* with his hand.

> **Psalms 121:3** He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

> **Jeremiah 10:23** O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

> **Psalms 89:**

30 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;

31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; {break: Heb. profane }

32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.

> **Proverbs 16:9** A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

> **Revelation 3:19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

IV. Now, let's review how to turn the "no and I do not agree" business in our

lives to “yes and amen” business. To do that, let’s look at some situations where we often fail to see the yes and amen:

- We tend to forget the yes and amen when we experience overwhelming trouble:
 - > **Ps. 50:15** And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
- Impossible needs or legitimate wants:
 - > **Jer 33:3** Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
 - > **Luke 11:9** And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

V. After we have taken steps to approach life in a positive way in which we are always looking for the yes and amen the Lord has for us in our experiences, we may find that negativism still shows up in our thinking and acting. How is that? Let’s look at when His promises are not “yes” and when we may not be able to say “amen” to them in our lives:

- When we are half-hearted
 - > **Jer. 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
 - > **Psalms 145:18** The LORD *is* nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.
- When there is falseness or misdirection in our approach
 - > **Jas. 4:2** Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
 - carnal aspirations and motives and dependence on carnal methods for obtaining (that’s the lusting, killing, fighting and warring in this verse), eliminates the kind of spiritual attitude which would ask the Lord for something. It also suppresses our ability to see that whatever the Lord brings to us is positive and is worthy to be accepted as the best for us (i.e. we say “amen” to it).

ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD IN CHRIST ARE “YES,” AND IN HIM THEY ARE SUCH THAT THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN. “SO BE IT” SAYS THE LORD. AMEN! We should say.

Read poem.

Yes and Amen!

Earth's time is drawing to a close
The day of trumpet blast is near
With all their minds men may oppose,
But hearts are failing them for fear.

As tumult fills their lives with woe,
And stress becomes their daily bread,
They look for some place they might go,
And hide from uneasiness and dread.

For this they need not fret or think,
Since answers lie just down the street,
There's someone there with drug or drink,
To calm the soul and be discreet,

They find a doctor or a dealer,
Who'll give them what they feel they need,
But what they get becomes a stealer,
And at great theft it will succeed.

The great escape sought as the goal,
By use of those mind-altering things,
Brings in a robber of the soul,
Which steals the will and emptiness brings.

This sad result has its antithesis,
In those who trust the Lord,
For they know peace in Him consists,
Of being kept by His sweet accord.

That sweet accord is sure, you see,
Because our Christ has come to bless,
To save us fully and make us free,
Because His promises are only "YES!"

Those promises come from Him who cannot die,
And make us know His power within,
Which makes us raise our voices with the cry,
To thee Our Savior, we say "AMEN!"

Robert P. Myers, 2007