

Pastor's Patch: Covenant Sunday



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“But you promised!” screams the girl to her brother who has decided he will withhold the sweets after all.

“You promised you’d stopped all this” sighs the woman as she discovers that her partner has not broken free from his addiction after all.

“You promised we’d be together forever” thinks the heartbroken young man when he is told by his girlfriend that they are breaking up

“The company promised me that promotion” says the employee to her boss when she has once again been passed over by someone better qualified.

“You’ve broken your election promises” says the frustrated MP to the Cabinet Member of the government.

We’ve all experienced broken promises at some point or another. And if we’re honest we have all broken our promises in one way or another with those around us.

And as God’s people we come on Covenant Sunday to make promises before each other and the Lord of how we intend to live out our faith. Yet even as we make those promises, our Heavenly Father knows we will soon be breaking some of them, maybe even before the day is out.

The Psalmist encourages God’s people saying.....

“Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfil them” (Psalm 76 verse 11)

The Psalm writer doesn’t encourage us to stop making those vows, but to fulfil them. Even the act of promising is valuable. Our consolation is that our Heavenly Father will never say to us “but you promised!”

Yes we will make promises and yes we will break them: but because of the sacrifice of Jesus who bore our sin on the cross and rose again, we are forgiven even before we fail. So our Heavenly Father says to us “but ***I promised...*** never to forsake you or leave you, never to turn away from you or give up on you, never to stop loving you despite your failings”.

And though we may break our promises, we take great comfort in the Lord who always keeps His promises.

Darrell Holmes