

PITFALLS AND PROMISES REVISITED

Psalm 115

3 pitfalls back in Vision 91. Same 3 pitfalls now.

Claimed God's promises then. Must do so now.

I. Lack of _____: v1

“Just another project. Just DO it.”

No. Too daunting:

1. Cost of project
2. Amount of debt we can service
3. Amount needed in campaign to be pledged over 3 yrs.
4. Chose a low key consultant that puts stress on faith and stewardship of God's people rather than spectacular campaign with any pressure. So v1.

Historical context of this psalm:

Cf. Isa 46:9-11

48:9-22

Rededication of temple

II. Lack of _____: v2-11

Despised defeated people with no land and no visible god

But He fulfilled His promise to release and restore them.

Because He does what He wills for His Glory!

So we tempted to say:

1. It is too big a project. Need plan B or defer.
2. Go ahead. “IT” worked before.
Like the nations, trust what we can see: idols.

Threefold call to trust Jehovah as our Help & Shield (v9-11)

III. Lack of _____: v12-18

He will

A. Bless us (v12-13)

B. Increase us (v14-15)

1. As a congregation

Book of Acts: a healthy church grows thru conversions

2. As families of faith

Covenant children going on in the Faith

C. Receive our praise before the nations (v16-18)

Howard County see a Base of Operation for ministry that it cannot ignore