

The Word of Life Messenger

“Holding forth the word of life” Phil. 2:16

Vol. 57

Tupelo, MS – April 2007

No. 4

REJOICE IN THE LORD! SEEING CHRIST IN PHILIPPIANS

“Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice” (Phil. 4:3)

How often do we get down in the dumps about what is happening in our lives and forget what great things we have in Christ? The apostle Paul was in a Roman prison and did not know whether he would live or be put to death for his faith in Christ. And yet in the book of Philippians he is full of joy. Why can we rejoice in the middle of tribulations, trials and troubles? The apostle Paul gives us ten things about Christ that brought joy to his heart in the time of his troubles. Paul saw ten things that caused him to say “It is well with my soul” no matter what circumstance he faced; no matter what awaited him in the future.

First, Paul could rejoice in Christ because He is the source of our spiritual life (1:6). Paul wrote “Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” On what basis did the Father begin a work in us? Was it not based on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross? Paul says the same God who sent His Son to die for our sins on Calvary’s cross has raised Him up on the third day as evidence that He had accepted the Son’s substitutionary sacrifice and will preserve our salvation. Did not Christ pay the full penalty for our sins? Did not

Christ call us to salvation? Jesus said “The hour is coming and now is when the dead (spiritually) shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live” (John 5:25). Did not the Holy Spirit open our hearts with the truth of the gospel and cause us to be born again, seal us until the day of redemption, and come to indwell our hearts? Did not the Father declare us justified and accepted in His sight based on the sacrifice of His Son? Were we saved by our efforts or by the grace of God? The obvious answer is we were saved by the grace of God in Christ and the same grace that saved us will keep us through Jesus Christ. Christ’s work of redemption on the cross provided for us a full and eternal salvation.

Second, Paul could rejoice in the Christ because He is the source of our spiritual fruit (1:11). Paul writes “Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory of God.” Notice that Paul says that the fruits of righteousness are by Jesus Christ. Salvation is by Jesus Christ and sanctification and fruit-bearing are by Jesus Christ. Jesus said “without me you can do nothing” but “You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that you should go and bring forth

fruit, and that your fruit should remain” (John 15:5, 16). Again, Jesus said, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches; He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit” (John 15: 4,5). Jesus says His desire for us is fruit, more fruit, and much fruit in our lives and this fruit all comes through union with Him. In this is the Father glorified.

Third, Paul rejoices because Jesus Christ is the theme of his preaching. Paul says that even though he was in prison, he rejoiced that “Christ is preached” whether in pretense or in truth. To the Corinthians, Paul wrote “For I determined to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified.” It ought to be the desire of every preacher to preach Christ, and in particular the gospel of how that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. We have no message if Christ is not preached, and a message in which the gospel is omitted is incomplete. And it should bring joy to our hearts wherever and whenever the gospel is preached.

(Continued on Page 2)

REJOICE IN THE LORD! SEEING CHRIST IN PHILIPPIANS

Continued from page 1

Fourth, Paul rejoices because Christ is the motive of Christian service. Paul writes "Now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Paul says Christ is what living is all about. Without Christ, life is lived for selfish and worldly ends, but through Christ we

can have a purposeful life which is lived for Christ and His glory and be a blessing to others. Like our Savior, we can say "Not my will, but thy will be done." Our Savior's will and service can become our highest desire. We have been motivated by "the mercies of God to present our bodies a living sacrifice." Then, when it comes time to

die, we can say that death is gain. Like Paul, we can say "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them who love his appearing."

- Larry Windham

SATISFIED WITH THE BREAD OF HEAVEN

"The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven" (Psalm 105:40). This verse describes the provision of God for the children of Israel as they journeyed through the wilderness.

God's provision for His people is abundant, gracious and satisfying. Many times people do not recognize this even as the children of Israel did not on many occasions. Oh how we need to be conscious of God's goodness in our lives.

Concerning bread from heaven, the Lord said unto Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you..." (Exodus 16:4). God fed the people and satisfied their hunger. Jesus referred to this when He said "Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat" (John 6:31). As Jesus gave the great discourse on the bread of life, He used this account from the Old Testament and pointed people to Himself as the bread of life. He said, "My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven" (John 6:32). Satisfaction with the true bread from heaven is in knowing Jesus as Saviour and sin-bearer. "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world" (John 6:33). "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread

of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). Believing in Jesus brings eternal satisfaction because He says, we "shall never hunger." Believing in Jesus means we believe He died for the penalty of our sins on Calvary, and was buried and raised from the grave.

The word "satisfy" can be used in several ways. First, it can mean to carry out the terms of a contract. It is used this way in Isaiah 53:11, "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall by righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." God's covenant of redemption was in the Godhead: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God met every need and suffered in the person of His Son and was satisfied.

"Satisfy" also means to make contented. The word is used this way in Psalm 105:40, as we noted above. To be content is to be resting in the Lord.

"Satisfy" also can be used to meet the needs of a person, such as to satisfy hunger. When you come to know the Lord as Saviour, you will never hunger for salvation again.

"Satisfy" can also mean to convince. That means you are satisfied

that it is true. We know that God's Word is true. Therefore when the Lord promises to save those who believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, we can be convinced and satisfied and rest in the Lord and Him alone for salvation.

From the earthly standpoint, the Bible speaks of four things that are never satisfied. "There are three things that are never satisfied, yea four things say not, It is enough: the grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough" (Proverbs 30:15,16). Aren't you thankful that in Jesus satisfaction is complete? David said in Psalm 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake, with thy likeness." The grave is never satisfied, for it keeps claiming its victims, but Jesus will raise His children when He comes back again and God's children will be made like Him and be satisfied.

May we rejoice in the Lord and His great salvation and say with the song writer of old: "I am satisfied with Jesus, He has done so much for me, He has suffered to redeem me, He has died to set me free." My friend, He not only died to set me free, but He was buried and God raised Him from the dead.

- Gladwin Carpenter

THE PROMISE OF EVERLASTING LIFE

Titus 1:2-4

Faith in Jesus Christ saves us today, tomorrow and forever. Faith in Christ makes our living godly. Our hope is a confident expectation, and patient waiting for “eternal life” (Romans 8:25). We wait for glorified bodies and for heaven’s glory. We wait to see Jesus our Savior. God who cannot lie promised us eternal life. God cannot lie. “The strength of Israel will not lie nor repent (change His mind)” (1 Sam. 15:20). God will keep His Word (Heb. 6:18-19). Our salvation is not based on emotions or feelings, but upon the Word of God who cannot lie. The promise of eternal life was part of God’s eternal purpose. Those who trust Jesus are saved eternally. This is God’s eternal plan.

In Titus 1:3, we are to preach the Word. God promised eternal life from eternity past, but in due season He revealed it. The message of eternal life was hidden in ages past - it was only seen in types and shadows. The message of eternal life “was not fully proclaimed, nor fully

realized, nor fully understood by the men of the old dispensation” (Hendriksen 342). The message of eternal life is revealed through preaching. God chose preaching, proclaiming His Word, to save the lost (1 Cor. 1:21). Preaching reveals hidden truth (Ephesians 3:3-9). Now is the time to be saved, the Gospel is not hid (2 Cor. 6:2). (The gospel is “how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures” And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to scriptures.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4). Paul preached the Gospel that was committed to him (1 Tim. 1:11). His commission came from God, not man (Gal. 1:10-12). The Word of God reveals a Savior because sinners need a Savior.

In Titus 1:4, we see Paul’s genuine child. Paul had led Titus to Christ. Paul was the spiritual father of Titus. Paul and Titus had the same Father. The word “common” in this verse is the Greek word *kolne*. The New Testament was not

written in classical Greek, it was written in common Greek or common language, language that everyone could understand. Paul was a Jew and Titus was a Greek. Paul was saying, “God loves Greeks and God loves Jews, we have a common faith, God loves us both.” God loves sinners (Rom. 5:8). God invites men to come to the common faith Paul spoke of in Romans 10:9.

Paul pronounces grace, mercy, and peace upon Titus. Grace is getting what we do not deserve. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Peace is the knowledge that we are saved, reconciled to God through Christ. Grace, mercy, and peace come from God the Father and are merited for the believer by “Christ Jesus our Saviour.”

Have you accepted the revealed Word and trusted in Christ? Do you have grace, mercy and peace? If not, trust in Christ today.

- Cecil Fayard

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

1 Corinthians 2:12 - Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we *might know* the things that are *freely given to us* of God.

The Holy Spirit leads and guides us into all truth and we can understand if we take time to read and study.

James 4:4 - Ye adulterers and adulteress, know ye not that the *friendship of the world is enmity with God?* Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world *is the enemy of God.*

This verse is very easy to understand. God is to be number one in our lives and worldly things should

not affect our spiritual growth.

1 John 2:15-17 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For *all* that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And *the world passeth away* and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God *abideth forever.*

1 John 5:5 - Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God.

These verses are written to born

again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. They point us to **Colossians 3:1-3.**

Colossians 3:1-3 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Psalms 119:105 - Thy *word* is a *lamp* unto my feet, and a *light* unto my path.

Study and read God’s word, it continues to show us more and more.

- Jim Whitlow

RADIO PROGRAMS

WCPC – HOUSTON, MS, 940 KC

SATURDAY, 8:30-9:00 A.M.

BRO. FRED HARTLEY

SUNDAY, 7:30-8:00 A.M.

BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

MON.-FRI. 4:55-5:00 P.M.

BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

SATURDAY, 9:15-9:45 A.M.

REEDY'S CHAPEL- BOBBY ADAMS

WBTG 106.3 FM – SHEFFIELD, AL

SUNDAY, 8:15 A.M.

BRO. JOE HOLMES

WOHT 92.3 FM – GRENADA, MS

MON.-FRI., 7:25 A.M.

DEVOTIONAL: LARRY WINDHAM

SUNDAY, 8:00-8:30 A.M.

ELLIOTT BAPTIST CHURCH

WBIP 99.3 FM – BOONEVILLE, MS

SUNDAY, 8:00 TO 8:30 A.M.

BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

*WEBSITE for "The Word
of Life Messenger"*

www.atCalvaryBaptist.net

If you are receiving multiple copies of this paper and are not using them, please send your address to:

Bobby Joe Poss

Word of Life

3151 Highway 43

Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for May 2007.

~~~~

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Double Springs Baptist Church, Savannah, TN on Tuesday, May 22, 2007.

The conference begins at 9:55 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m. Preachers on program are: Bobby Poss, Trent Jaudon, Joe Holmes, Kenny Hodges, Gladwin Carpenter, Bobby Adams and Cecil Fayard. Each preacher will choose the Scripture of his choice.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Bro. Jack Maroon, pastor and the church invite you to this time of Bible study.

### WORD OF LIFE MESSENGER

Published Monthly by the  
Northeast Mississippi Baptist  
Pastor's Conference, Inc.

Editors: Gladwin Carpenter, Larry Windham,  
and Bobby Joe Poss

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to**  
**Bobby Joe Poss**  
**3151 Hwy. 43**  
**Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657**

## T.V. PROGRAMS

### TV WCVJ - Channel 13

Grenada, MS

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

C.A. Fayard, Jr.

### W39CD TV 39

Fulton, MS

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.

Bro. Chris Duncan

Bro. Bobby Joe Poss

Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Bro. Lloyd Minor

Bro. David Jay

Bro. Robert Frederick (Singer)

WEBSITE: [www.w39cd.com](http://www.w39cd.com)

### First Baptist Church

Belmont, MS

Bro. Trent Jaudon

Channel 39

Fulton, MS

Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

3151 Hwy. 43

Word of Life

PRSRRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TUFELQ, MS  
PERMIT #564