

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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No. 4

HIS NAME IS CALLED THE WORD OF GOD

“And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God” (Rev. 19:13). This verse is a description of Jesus when He comes back to this earth in His glorious appearing. We can back up to John chapter one and see that in the beginning He was also The Word. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). John begins immediately presenting Christ as the Son of God. John takes us back to the beginning and shows that the Lord Jesus Christ had no beginning. John goes behind creation and shows that the Saviour Himself was the creator. “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3).

The Word of God is deity expressing itself in audible terms. Jesus Christ was not only from the beginning but he was “in the beginning.” He is the eternal one. He is the second person of the Godhead.

The Bible says “the Word was with God” (John 1:1). The name “God” is used to express the three personalities of the trinity. The title “Father” is used of the first person of the trinity only. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit sets forth one God but revealed in three persons. The Word (Jesus) was with God (the Father), yet Jesus is God. The Word was a manifestation of Jesus coming to be our Saviour. “And ye know that he

was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin” (1 John 3:5). Jesus took away our sins when He went to the cross of Calvary and shed His precious blood. He was buried and rose again from the grave. The Word is also a communication between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. The Word is also a method of revelation. God revealed Himself to men in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We also see that “the Word was God.” Who could express and reveal God except the One who is God, the Lord Jesus Christ? Not only is Jesus the revealer of God, but He is God revealed. Jesus said, “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

One of the great marvels of the living Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Word was made flesh. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). The infinite became finite. The invisible became visible. The One who was far off became near. The One who knew no sin was made a sin offering. The One who was higher than the angels became lower than the angels for a little while “for the suffering of death.” The One who had a name above every name “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:7). The One who was God

became the God-man. Jesus did not cease to be God but He became a man, yet without sin. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was the manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim. 3:16).

As the Word, Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus becoming flesh speaks of His holy humanity. Jesus must take upon Himself humanity in order to die for our sins. “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb. 2:14, 15). Oh what a death He died in order to save hell-deserving sinners. The Holy Spirit through Paul expresses it like this in Philippians 2:8; “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Jesus was buried for three days and three nights, but God raised Him from the grave. “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name” (Phil. 2:9).

- Gladwin Carpenter

LEARNING TO LEAN

For I have learned in whatever state I am, in this to be content. Phil. 4:11

One of the most difficult things in life is learning to be content in our circumstances, to trust God's will as opposed to our own. Too many of us fight against and complain about our circumstances throughout life not realizing that it is God who has ordained and permitted our circumstances. He wants us to learn to lean on Him in relation to our possessions, our problems, and our plans. Our possessions are only loaned to us for a season. When we die they will belong to someone else. The important thing is not how much we have, but how we use what we have. Jesus said, "Seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). He promises us that he will supply what we need. Therefore, He says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6). If we have a need we are to commit it unto the Lord. We are to seek his will, do what we can, and leave the outcome with the Lord. Paul wrote, "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). In Hebrews 13:5-6 we are commanded "to be content with such things as we have for He hath said I will never leave you nor forsake you. So that we may boldly say the Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man can do to me." When we can't change our circumstances, we can ask God to change us.

God also wants us to lean on Him with our problems. In this fallen world we will have problems. Have you ever thought of it, that all that concerns you concerns Him too? For He hath told us dear believer "he that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of His eye" (Zech. 2:8). If God permits trouble to come, or sends trouble our way it is to cause us to draw near to

him, to draw of his strength and resources. God told Paul after He refused to remove his "thorn in the flesh," "My grace is sufficient for you; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Jesus said "Come unto me all you that are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). He has already promised that He will not put on us more than we can bear (1 Cor. 10:13). No wonder the apostle Paul responded by saying "Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:9-10). God's power can do for us what we can not do for ourselves.

Third, God wants us to lean on Him with our plans. He warns us not to boast about what we are going to do for we don't even know what this day we have will bring to our lives (James 5:15). The Psalmist wrote, "Commit your way unto the Lord, and He will bring it to pass (37:5). He tells us to "trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not to our own understanding. In all our ways acknowledge Him and He will direct our paths" (Prov. 3:5-6). Too often we want Him to put His stamp of approval upon our self-centered and short-sighted plans. He then has to deny us our requests or allow us to experience some of the consequences of our plans. He has told us to "delight thyself also in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalms 37:4). David wrote also "He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he will also hear their cry and save them" (145:19). Has he not promised to help those who delight in him and have a deep love and respect for him? He wants us to learn to lean on

Him first so that His plans may become our plans.

So the question comes then, why are we so dissatisfied, so discontent? Need we forget that "He who spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things (Rom. 8:32)? Shall we forget that the Son who died for us and is risen again has ascended to the right hand of the Father where He ever liveth to make intercession for us? (Rom 8:34). Will we forget that nothing can come our way that will separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39) or pluck us out of His hand (John 10:28). Will we forget that the Holy Spirit is our Comforter, one called along side to help in our time of need? (John 14:16) Will we make all the promises of God of no effect? Has He not said "When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee." (Isaiah 43:2a) Or I shall supply all thy need according to My riches in glory (Phil. 4:19). Has he not said that all our troubles work for us here and in the life to come (Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)? Has He not invited us to come boldly before His throne of grace that we might find help in our time of need (Heb. 4:16)? Let us then keep "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradictions against Himself, lest ye be weary and faint in your minds..." (Heb. 12:2-3). He wants us to learn to lean on Him with our possessions, our problems, and our plans. Are you doing that today?

May we learn the bless

Of delighting in your perfect will
Welcoming whatever you send us
Joy or sorrow, good or ill

- Larry Windham

WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS

“What manner of man is this?” Jesus’ disciples exclaimed. For this they had a good reason. So do you and I as we read the gospels. They saw Him lying unconscious in sleep at sea in a little boat in a storm. Now standing up He rebukes the wind and the sea and there is a great calm. Someone has said, “The greatest study of man is man.” I prefer saying, “The greatest study of man is the Son of man.” We can take this exclamation not as an outcry of wonder at this peerless person but an inquiry as to His being. May we look into the Gospel records and seek the answer to the inquiry. “What manner of man is this?”

First Jesus is a MYSTERIOUS MAN. Jesus told Nicodemus it took a birth from above to understand the truth about Him. He said to Peter “My Father hath revealed this unto thee.” Second He is the

MIGHTY MAN. He faced no task too difficult for Him. He performed everything. He wished by the power of His word. Third, He is the MASTERFUL MAN. He never faced a situation involving things, devils, men or angels that He was not in perfect control. Fourth, He is a MERCIFUL MAN. Almost every deed He did and word He spoke reveal this. Fifth, He is the MEDIATORY MAN. Paul puts it this way, “for there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time” (1 Tim. 2:5-6). How peace provoking, that this Mediator Man stood between us and God our Just and Holy Judge and bore the curse of the law for us! And now risen and glorified, our high priest cleanses us from the defilement of sin. Sixth, He is the MAJESTIC MAN. “All authority is

given unto Me in heaven and in earth” Jesus said in Matthew 28:18. “We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the Heavens” (Heb. 8:3). Seventh, He is the MEANINGFUL MAN. “But now we see not yet all things put under him (Man), but we see Jesus” (Heb. 2:8-9). Everything is in confusion everywhere we look, if we do not see Jesus. He gives meaning to everything. The same MAN who commanded and there was a calm on the little lake of Galilee and peace in the heart of His disciples, has this world in all its ragings and storms as completely in His power. It takes a knowledge of Jesus in all His glorious person, and mighty and gracious works to give us meaning to this world in which we live.

- E.R. Henderson

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). Even though Paul had been treated in contempt because of the gospel, he preached and even if Rome was the center of the world and even if they worshiped their emperors as deities, he was not ashamed of the gospel.

He also gives the reason why he is not ashamed of it. Coming to Rome where the power of the Roman Empire and its military power was respected by so many, Paul says the good news he brings is the “power of God unto salvation.” Of the six words for power in the Greek language, Paul uses

dunamis to describe the effectual working of the good news of salvation. Dunamis is power, natural ability, inherent power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature. The gospel is the inherent, omnipotent power of God operating in the salvation of a lost soul that accepts it. The gospel is God’s power resulting in salvation to the one who believes Paul is proud to preach it anywhere. It is good news of salvation energized by the Holy Spirit. Our word dynamite is the transliteration of this Greek word but not a translation. Dunamis does not refer to an explosive power. The Greeks knew nothing about gunpowder. The gospel is not the dynamite of God. It is a sweet and loving message of mercy and grace which the

Holy Spirit in grace makes operative in the heart of the sinner. It is how Christ loved the sinner and died on the cross for his sins and was buried and raised again the third day according to the Scriptures for sin. “Or despiseth thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance” (Romans 2:4).

I believe hell is literal, that it is a burning hell, where all Christ rejectors are going. I believe we are to preach hell fire to the people; but when they are saved it will not be fear of hell but the love of God that draws them to the Saviour. Do you see what He has done for you?

- Charles Ellis

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for May 2008.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Double Springs Baptist Church, Savannah, TN on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. The conference will begin at 9:50 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Nine preachers are on program for the day. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Bro. Jack Maroon, pastor, and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible study.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16).

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