

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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No. 4

INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Tim. 3:16). We would like to look in the scriptures and see how God instructs us in righteousness. Righteousness speaks of the act of God justifying or making us right in the sight of God.

First we notice that righteousness is revealed to the believing sinner in 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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:16, 17). Since righteousness is revealed in the gospel, we need to understand that 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 the scriptures” (I Cor. 15:3, 4). We are in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us righteousness (see I Cor. 1:30).

As we are further instructed in righteousness from the scriptures, we note that righteousness “is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe” (Romans 3:22). When the sinner believes in Jesus, righteousness

comes upon him. Believing is trusting or resting in the finished work of Christ.

God declares His righteousness for the remission of sins through faith in His blood (see Romans 3:25). The blood of Jesus Christ washes and cleanses us from all sins. The blood of Jesus shed at the cross of Calvary satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God.

Righteousness is imputed to the believer without works. “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works” (Romans 4:5, 6). God performed all the work in our salvation. Jesus said, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent” (John 6:29). If man could do any work to be saved, Jesus would not have died in our place. God’s work of redemption is revealed in Jesus dying for our sins, being buried and raised again.

The Bible teaches us that we are made righteous in the Lord Jesus Christ. “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (II Cor. 5:21). This verse reveals to us that Jesus was without sin or perfect in His

flesh. Yet, He was made a sin offering for us. Because of this we are made righteous in Him.

The servant of the Lord who fights a good fight of faith, finishes his course, and keeps the faith will receive a crown of righteousness when the Lord Jesus comes back to reward His saints at the Judgment Seat of Christ (see II Tim. 4:7, 8). We are saved by grace through faith without works (Eph. 2:8, 9), but our rewards are based on our faithful service to Him.

God instructs the believer in righteousness in our lives as we live for Him. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, RIGHTEOUSLY and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:11-14). Do you know Jesus as the one who died for you, was buried and raised again? “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). Then after you know Him as your saviour, you should live righteously and godly, looking for His soon return.

~ Gladwin Carpenter

AN OUTLINE OF THE LORD'S RETURN

I. THE PROMISE AND EXPECTATION OF THE LORD'S RETURN

A. There is the Lord's promise of his future return

John 14:2, 3, 28

John 16:16, 22

Hebrews 10:23, 25, 37

James 5:8

II Peter 5:9

B. There is the believer's hope and expectation of his future return.

Romans 8:23

I Corinthians 1:7

Philippians 3:20 (the word "conversation" speaks of our citizenship)

I Thessalonians 1:10

II Thessalonians 3:5

Titus 2:13

Hebrews 9:28

II. THE COMING OF THE LORD FOR HIS SAINTS (THE RAPTURE)

A. The Lord will come as the bridegroom in the air for His people

I Thessalonians 4:14, 16

I Corinthians 15:52

B. The dead in Christ shall be raised and given new bodies suitable for all eternity. Their souls are already with Jesus. (Phil. 1:21-23; II Cor. 5:10)

I Thessalonians 4:16

I Corinthians 15:22-23, 42-44, 52

Both body and soul shall be reunited and they shall have new bodies that shall be similar, but significantly different from their earthly bodies.

The similarities are:

They shall be recognizable (v. 41). See also Jesus' resurrection.

They shall each have individual characteristics (v. 41).

The differences are:

They shall be incorruptible (v. 42)

They shall be glorious (v. 43) See also

II Cor. 3:18

They shall be powerful (v. 43)

They shall be immortal (v. 54)

They shall have spiritual bodies (v. 44).

They will have a body equipped for eternity.

C. Living believers shall be changed in a moment, and given new bodies suitable for eternity just like the dead in Christ. These new bodies of both the dead in Christ and the living saints shall not be subject to sin, sickness, disease, deterioration or death.

I Thessalonians 4:15

I Corinthians 15:49-53

Philippians 3:20-21

D. Both living and dead saints are to be caught

up into the clouds to meet the Lord and to reunite with departed loved ones.

a. I Thessalonians 4:17; 5:10

b. II Thessalonians 2:1

c. John 10:28; 12:26; 14:3; 17:24

d. II Corinthians 4:7

e. Hebrews 9:15

f. I Peter 1:4

g. Revelation 3:12

E. All believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. They shall be judged according to their works. What did they do for Christ with the talents and opportunities that they had? Did they obey the will of God? Were they faithful to the calling which God had for them? Did He have the first love in their lives? What did we sacrifice for Him in our lives? Some will be rewarded. Some will suffer loss. This will not be judgment for our sins, but our service and devotion to Him.

II Corinthians 5:10

Romans 14:10-12

Revelation 22:12

I Corinthians 2:9; 3:8-17; 4:5; 9:25

Ephesians 6:8

Colossians 3:24, 25

Philippians 3:14

James 1:12; 2:5

II Timothy 4:8

Revelation 2:10

I Peter 5:4

There will be several crowns given at the Judgment Seat of Christ. These crowns are clearly given in Scripture:

(1) The incorruptible crown (I Corinthians 9:27)

(2) The soul-winners crown (I Thessalonians 2:19)

(3) The crown of life (James 1:12) (Rev. 2:10)

(4) The crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7)

(5) The crown of glory (I Peter 5:4)

These crowns will ultimately be cast at the feet of Jesus for all our redemption and service is by His grace (Rev. 4:10).

F. The Lord will claim his Bride. There will be the Marriage of the Lamb.

II Corinthians 11:2

Ephesians 5:25-27

Revelation 19:7-8

Hebrews 12:22-24

Revelation 3:10

Who will be part of the Bride? Will it consist of all believers in this age? Or will it consist of only those who are members of His body, the New Testament Church (a Baptist Bride)? Who will be the guests at the Supper? Are churches which practice infant baptism true churches?

~ Larry Windham

CHANGES

Repentance is a change of mind. Matthew 21:28-29 - "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented and went." He had a change of mind or he changed his mind. Lost people always have a need for a change of mind toward God. They think that God is angry with them and that they must do something to appease that anger. They do not know that He loves them and that He has done all that needs to be done when He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus has paid the penalty for sin in His death, burial, and resurrection. That is good news to the lost sinner's ear. So he has a change of mind toward God and about God. He sees him now as a loving God of grace and mercy. He believes now that he can come to the Father and is accepted not because of something he can do or has done but because Jesus suffered his hell debt for him.

Salvation is a change of position. Ephesians 2:6-8 - "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast." We were condemned and cut off from God because of our sin but now we have changed our position because we

are already seated in heaven.

Justification is a change of state. Romans 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." We were in a state of confusion, unrest, and disarray but now in Christ there is peace like a river in our heart. We are no longer enemies of God. We have blessed peace through His finished work of Calvary by faith.

Adoption is a change of family. Ephesians 1:5 - "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." We are placed as a full grown son by adoption.

Redemption is a change of masters. Ephesians 1:7 - "In whom we have redemption of sins according to the riches of his grace." Having been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, we have a new master. We belong to Him because He has purchased us. In time past we were under Satan as our master. Ephesians 2:2 - "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." But what a change we now bow in subjection to the Lord as our Master. He now rules my life. He tells me where to go, what to say and what to be.

Sanctification is a change of life. I Thessalonians 5:23-24 - "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is

he that calleth you, who also will do it." When we received the gospel of Jesus Christ we received by the Holy Spirit of God who is sanctifying us daily by His presence and power. He is changing our life.

Consecration is a change of will. Romans 12:1-2 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto him which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this present world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good and perfect will of God. Because of God's mercies we are urged to yield our lives to the Lord. He does not ask of us to die for Him but He does plead with us to live for Him. In order for us to do this we must die to our desires, our wishes, to our pleasure and seek to do that which is his pleasure. We must renew our minds by means of a study of God's Word or we will ignore His will and go about to please ourselves. If we are willing to die to self and our desires that would solve the problem of missing on Sundays. If we ask the Lord and look in His Word for the answer we would be found faithful in the house of God. What a change takes place in a person who experiences the salvation of the Lord and then learns to yield his or her life to Him as Lord? Do you know him in this way?

May God bless you.

~ Charles Ellis

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for May 2009.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Double Springs Baptist Church, Savannah, TN on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. The conference will begin at 9:50 a.m. Preachers on program for the day are: Billy Credille, Larry Windham, Joe Tully, Fred Hartley, Bobby Poss, Trent Jaudon, John Gray and Gladwin Carpenter.

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.

"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

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Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.

Bro. Chris Duncan

Bro. Bobby Joe Poss

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Lloyd Minor

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