

The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 56

Tupelo, MS – April 2006

No. 4

A-S-K (ASK, SEEK, KNOCK)

In Matthew chapters five through seven, Jesus speaks to His disciples in the sermon on the mount. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matt. 7:7).

In the context of the verses, God’s children are encouraged to ask for good things. “If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matt. 7:11). One of the good things we can ask for is found in Jeremiah. “Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jer. 6:16). In Jeremiah 18:15, God says “my people have forgotten me”... and they “stumble in their ways from the ancient paths.” The old paths that God has given in His word reveal to us the path of life. “Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psa. 16:11). In Jesus, we have the true path of life, for He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). He is the way into salvation

and Heaven when we come to believe in His death on the cross as He shed His blood to wash away our sins and was buried and raised from the grave. The old paths are paths of righteousness. “He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake” (Psa. 23:3). “All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth” (Psa. 25:10). The paths of the Lord are illuminated by His word. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:105).

The next word we see is “seek.” Remember the Lord is speaking to saved people. The lost person cannot seek God. “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God” (Rom. 3:11). “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). To those who are saved, Jesus has already sought and found us. Then we as God’s children, need to seek the things that please God. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). If we who are saved seek the first things or put the service of God first in our lives, He will take care of the things we need. According to Philippians 2:21, we need to seek the things

which are Jesus Christ’s. He tells us in I Cor. 14:12 to “seek that ye may excell to the edifying of the church.” In Colossians 3:1 He says: “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”

The third word we find in this passage is the word “knock.” “Knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matt. 7:7). When God opens to His children, He reveals His word to them. We knock, the Lord opens and we are blessed. He sets before His preachers an open door to preach the glorious death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Also, we as God called preachers are to preach all the counsel of God. “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:27, 28).

Ask for the good things, seek for the first things and knock for the opened or revealed things. Then we will be blessed.

- Gladwin Carpenter

SIT, WALK, STAND

The word “sit” shows our position as saved people in the Lord Jesus Christ. “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved:) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:5, 6). The believer has been placed in Christ as a place of safety and security. When we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for the remission of our sins, we pass from death into life. “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1). The book of Ephesians presents the believer “in Christ” in several places. Ephesians 1:1 speaks of “the faithful in Christ Jesus.” We are “blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3). “In whom (Christ) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to

the riches of his grace” (Eph. 1:7). As we look on in this great book, we see our seated position in Christ.

“Walk” has to do with our fellowship in the Lord. “Walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8). As children of God, we can walk in the light. “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness” (John 8:12). We walk in newness of life (see Romans 6:4). We also walk by faith. “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (II Cor. 5:7). Our walk should be a worthy walk. “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Eph. 4:1). May we walk in the truth of God’s word.

“Stand” is our conviction. Someone has said, “if we don’t stand for something, we will fall for anything.” We need to stand in the gospel. “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I

preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye STAND; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, 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. 15:1-4). Then we are to stand in the faith. “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (I Cor. 16:13). “Stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:1).

The child of God is “in Christ” positionally. As His child, may we walk in sweet fellowship with Him. When the world is going in the opposite direction from God, may we stand “in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Eph. 6:13).

- Gladwin Carpenter

HE CANNOT FAIL; HE WILL NOT FORSAKE

“I will be with thee; I will not fail thee; nor forsake thee” (Joshua 1:5)

How great would our troubles be if the Lord were to leave us, fail us, or forsake us. However, our hearts and minds can rest in assurance that God is always faithful to His people and to His Word. Clouds may gather, but the Lord can blow them away. Since God will not leave me or forsake me, neither will I forsake Him. Since God will not fail me, my faith will also not fail. The God who spared not His own Son, but

delivered Him up for us will complete the work that He has begun in us (Rom. 8:32; Phil. 1:6). The Son who died for us, has risen from the grave triumphant over death and the grave, and is now seated at the right hand of God where he ever liveth to make intercession for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25). Nothing can ever separate the believer from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:35-39). Moreover, the Holy Spirit who sealed us

and now indwells us (Eph. 1:14-15) will guide us, help us, and abide with us forever (John 14:16-18). Yes, in the world we will have tribulation and trouble, but remember our God is bigger than our trials (John 16:33). He will not leave us; He will not fail us; He will not forsake us. That’s a truth in which we can take great comfort.

- Larry Windham

NO CONDEMNATION

John 5:24 says “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

Romans 8:1, we read the same thing on this side of the cross and the empty tomb. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” “No condemnation;” What a glorious declaration!

No judgment, in the sense of condemnation, to the believer in Christ. Judgment, so far as the believer’s sin is concerned, is passed. It took place at Calvary, when his substitute, the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God, bore the penalty for sin.

“No condemnation!” Let us not dare to dilute or weaken this decla-

ration of truth by amendments which God has not placed there. God says “no condemnation.” Believe it, weary, sinful soul and rejoice.

God will never require the payment of the penalty twice; once from His beloved Son, and again from those who have trusted the value of that person and His finished work.

“No condemnation!” Think for a moment of that brief yet eternally grand phrase in Romans 8:1 “in Christ Jesus.” What a wealth of blessedness it contains.

As we study the epistles of Paul we find it frequently occurring in connection with the unfolding of the truths of the believer’s possession and relationships.

Redemption is in Christ Jesus.

The Love of God is in Christ Jesus.

We are sanctified in Christ Jesus. Our liberty is in Christ Jesus.

We are His workmanship in Christ Jesus.

God’s eternal purpose is in Christ Jesus.

The high calling of God is in Christ Jesus.

Our riches of Glory are in Christ Jesus.

Everything we are and have, and all that future eternity holds for the child of God is in Christ Jesus. There is no more charge against us than there is against the Lord Jesus. We share all that He is and has. Praise God for such marvelous, infinite, matchless grace!

- Jack Maroon

A MOMENT WITH THE WORD

Romans 8:8 says “they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” And yet many millions of men and women all over the world are still trying to please God while they are still “in the flesh.”

There are so many kinds of flesh:

Religious flesh

Moral flesh

Earnest flesh

Philanthropic flesh

Church member flesh

But God will have no fellowship with the flesh. That is why the Lord Jesus said, “Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).

We are reminded here of the word in I Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are

spiritually discerned.”

Note the things said about the flesh in verses 5 to 8:

1. Those who are “after the flesh” mind (seek) the things of the flesh (vs. 5).

2. The result of the fleshly mind is eternal death everlasting separation from God (vs. 6).

3. The fleshly mind is an enemy of God (vs. 7).

4. The fleshly mind is not subject to God (vs. 7).

5. The fleshly mind cannot be subject to God (vs. 8).

6. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God (vs. 8).

In verse 9 the Apostle assures the believers to whom he writes that they are not “in the flesh,” but “in the Spirit,” that is, they are not in their natural, unregenerate state, in

the sphere of death, but are in the sphere as life, the sphere of the Holy Spirit. If any man does not possess the Holy Spirit, he is not saved at all. The second sentence of verse 9 clearly declares this fact. The Holy Spirit does not come to dwell in the believer at some time after he accepts Christ as Savior, but the instant he receives Christ. There is not a Scripture which justifies the Christian in this age of the gospel of grace in “praying for the Holy Spirit,” or for the “baptism of the Holy Spirit.” If one does not possess the Holy Spirit, he isn’t saved at all. This clear statement in verse 9 puts the one who prays for the Holy Spirit to come, in the position of acknowledging that he isn’t a child of God.

- Jack Maroon

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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, 2006.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Double Springs Baptist Church, Savannah, TN on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. The conference begins at 9:55 a.m. Lunch will be served at the church at 12:00 noon. The conference is scheduled to close at 2:05 p.m. The study for the day will be II Timothy and Titus. The following preachers are assigned one chapter each in the order given: Gladwin Carpenter, Fred Hartley, Trent Jaudon, Larry Windham, Cecil Fayard, Joe Tully, and Bobby Adams.

Bro. Jack Maroon, pastor, and the church invites you to time time of Bible study.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psa. 122:1).

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

“Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.

My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times.

Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies.

Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.

Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

~ Psalm 119:17-24

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Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

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