

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 56

Tupelo, MS – June 2006

No. 6

## **HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON**

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son  
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).”*

The measure of love is always its willingness to give, its capacity for sacrifice. If we would measure the love of God we must measure it by Calvary, by the cross of Christ. Nothing more completely reveals the nature of man and the love of God.

For whom did He give His Son? It was for sinners – for sinners such as you and me. For those who had violated His law, offended His holiness, despised His mercy, abused His creatures, embraced His enemy, and worshiped the works of their own hands. He gave Him for those who did not like to retain the knowledge of God in their hearts and turned to evil vile practices which were repugnant to His holy nature and deserved the fury of His wrath. What amazing love this is that He would love sinners at all.

For what did God give His Son? He gave Him to live as the sinner’s representative and to die as the sinner’s substitute. The Scriptures declare “For He (God) hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21). In His life He obeyed the law for us. In His death He endured the curse of the law for us. In His life He was perfectly obedi-

ent to the Father in all things. In His death He bore all our sins and received the wrath of a Holy God as our substitute. By living and dying He accomplished all that was necessary for our salvation, and now whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. The believer stands accepted in Christ, clothed in His perfect righteousness. The believer sees the awfulness of His sin and the greatness of the love of God in Christ, for the Father gave that which was most dear to Him to purchase our salvation. He knows it was all of God’s grace that he is saved. He knows that he deserves the wrath of God that was placed on his dear Savior, but he rejoices in the free gracious gift of salvation which God has bestowed upon him. He rejoices in the one who bore his penalty and purchased his redemption by shedding His own blood. The believer may still sin but, no longer can he truly take delight in sin. He delights that he has a living Saviour who is now seated at the right hand of the Father who ever lives to make intercession for him.

When he sins he has an advocate with the Father who claims him as His own, as one for whom He died. When he is weak, He prays for him

that his faith fails not.

Dear believer, God can do nothing greater for you than He has not already done, nor can He give you anything greater than He has already given. He who gave His only begotten Son will surely give us anything we need. He who died for us will surely ensure that His work was not in vain. He who gave His only Son to die for us will surely do anything that we ask that is according to His all wise will. You can trust God with your every need. The Scriptures declare “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him give us all things?”

Oh, friend, if you are seeking pardon and cleansing from sin, peace with God and peace within, power for life’s trials and tribulations, assurance, eternal life, joy, comfort, hope, meaning and purpose for living now, and a blessed hereafter, do not seek them as a list of things you need. See in Jesus all that poor sinners can ever need for their present and everlasting well-being. God in His love and grace has freely given us all things in Him. Receive Him as God’s gift. To have Him is to have a full salvation.

- Larry Windham

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# ***SALVATION'S PRIVILEGES***

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Salvation is a free gift of God that comes to the sinner when we believe that Jesus suffered the penalty of our sins on the cross of Calvary and was buried and raised from the grave. His precious blood is the price that God required in order for us to be saved. When we receive Him as Saviour, we become sons or children of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

After we are born into God's family, it is a great privilege to be His children. A privilege is a right or liberty given to us by the grace of God. Because of His provision for us, we should be thankful every day to Him and honor Him with our lives. We should read and study His word and be in a true New Testament church every Sunday to worship Him.

We are born into God's family as a baby. From our birth, we should begin to grow. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). Here we see that the food for our spiritual growth is the word of

God. As we grow in His word, we grow in grace. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). It is a great privilege and responsibility to grow and mature. "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because your faith groweth exceedingly..." (2 Thess. 1:3).

Not only, as a baby, do we need to grow, but as a building we are erected on the foundation, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:19-22). Peter reminds us that Jesus Christ is the living stone and we "as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house" (See 1 Peter 2:4,5).

As a beloved people, we are to show forth His praises. "But ye are

a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

He beseeches us as strangers and pilgrims in 1 Peter 2:11. We are to abstain from fleshly lusts (vs. 11). In verse 12, we are to have an honest conversation or manner of life. We are to be law-abiding.

In the last part of 1 Peter chapter two we see the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ and the reminder that we should be willing to suffer for His name's sake. Jesus is the perfect son of God. "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). As the perfect son of God He suffered the penalty of our sins on the cross. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). After He suffered for us, He was buried and arose from the grave. Do you believe in Him as your Saviour?

- Gladwin Carpenter

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## ***GOOD NEWS FOR THE UNGODLY***

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As long as one is living a clean, upright, honest and truthful life, the average person thinks he "has a pretty good chance for heaven." But, the man who is a liar, cheat, dishonest, and unclean in his life, the fellow who is unquestionably ungodly in every way is not considered to have bright prospects for the future beyond the grave. Is there no good news for such an ungodly person? There certainly is! "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his

faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5).

The great truth from the Word of God concerns the one who is not trying to do anything to save himself. He is one "who worketh not." The religious world would likely say that there isn't any "chance" for a man who won't try to help himself to heaven. They would doubtless consign such a man to the realms of the hopeless. But, God says differently. "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him

that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

Well, if he isn't to work for his salvation, what about it? "Him that justifieth the ungodly"! What a strange title for God! Most of us have always been told that God saves "good people." But, here He is declared to be the One who justifies, or makes right in His sight, "ungodly" people.

How can such be? How can a just and holy God give perfect standing to an ungodly sinner who rightly

deserves to spend eternity in hell? “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (Romans 8:3). “Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18).

In order for God to be able to justly and righteously give ungodly sinners right standing before Him, He sent His eternal, perfect Son, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, into the world. He came, kept the law perfectly in every respect, gave Himself for a sin-offering for us, died on the cross under our sin-load, suffered our hell-death for us,

and fully paid the debt we were due to pay. They buried Him and He stayed in the grave three days and three nights, but on the third day He rose from the dead and forty days later went back to the Father in heaven, where He now ever lives and makes intercession for those who believe in Him.

Since the sin debt has been paid by One who is fully acceptable to God, and on terms that honor and exalt God and His righteousness, God can be just and the justifier of every lost sinner who believes in Jesus the Christ (Romans 3:26).

When we hear this gracious truth and believe it, we see Jesus as the Christ (Anointed One) of God, our Saviour. We see that salvation is in

Him, and in Him alone. He is the one in whom we believe. He is the One whom we believe. He is our faith. Therefore, He is counted to us for righteousness, and we stand before God in our perfect Substitute, “wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:6). “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

Thank the Lord for the wonderfully good news that He can and does justify, or make right in His sight, ungodly, undeserving sinners, when they believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour from sin.

- *The Clarion*

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*In his days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell safely and this is his name whereby he shall be called,*  
***THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS***  
*(Jeremiah 23:6)*

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One of the greatest encouragements to the discouraged and downcast Christian is to think upon the perfect righteousness of Christ. It should produce within us the greatest calm and peace. Yes, we can remember the corruption, depravity of the heart and the innate evil of the soul which so often troubles us, but let us not stop there as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. We must remember that we are perfect in Christ Jesus (Colossians 1:28). To dwell on our own corruption (while it is true) will depress us, but if we dwell on Jesus Christ and his righteousness and remember that He is made unto us righteousness we will be greatly cheered and encouraged. Even though troubles may afflict us and Satan may assault us they can never take away our righteousness in Christ.

In the covenant of divine grace Christ has done it all. Nothing was lacking in Him. He had no sin; He did no sin; He knew no sin. He always did the right thing at the right time in the right way in perfect

obedience to the Father. His thoughts were pure thoughts, thoughts of communion with His Father, thoughts on the Holy Scriptures, thoughts of the needs of others; thoughts which were reflected in His deeds. His words were words of pure gold, ministering grace, mercy and wisdom to His listeners. Never a man spoke such as this man spoke, they said. He never left undone anything which needed doing. He only could say “Which of you accuses me of sin?” On the cross He bore my sin and when He cried “It is finished” (John 19:30), the work of redemption was complete and I am complete in Him. I can rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8). Like Paul I can say my great joy is found in Christ, “Not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith (Phil. 3:9).

This understanding will cause us to be holy, not careless in our Christian walk. When the believer comes

to rest on Christ alone, to realize how unworthy he is and that he is saved by God’s grace then great gratitude surges up in his heart. He rejoices that “there is now therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ.” He now wants to worship Him, to love Him, and to serve Him seeing that he is saved apart from his own merits. He is a child of the King. He is clothed in the King’s righteousness, and has been made a partaker of the divine nature. Paul wrote “The love of Christ constraineth us...that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). We want to obey Him and follow Him because we love Him. Imputed righteousness will ultimately cause us to highly value imparted righteousness. We want to walk worthy of our calling because we can say “THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

- *Larry Windham*

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The Northeast and North Central MS Baptist Bible conferences do not have a meeting place for July.

The Word of Life Messenger may now be viewed on the internet. Go to: [www.atCalvaryBaptist.net](http://www.atCalvaryBaptist.net) (note correction from last month).

“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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:16,17). “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” (1 Cor. 15:3,4).

## WORD OF LIFE MESSENGER

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

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

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## JESUS IN HEBREWS

1. The appointed heir (1:2)
2. The brightness of His glory (1:3)
3. The express image of God (1:3)
4. A more excellent name (1:4)
5. The only begotten Son (1:5)
6. The suffering Saviour (2:9)
7. The captain of salvation (2:10)
8. The seed of Abraham (2:16,17)
9. The Apostle and High Priest (3:1)
10. Author of eternal salvation (5:9)
11. The Forerunner (6:20)
12. Surety of a better testament (7:22)
13. A new and living way (10:19,20)

- Gladwin Carpenter

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