

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 57

Tupelo, MS – June 2007

No. 6

## **KNOWING THE TIME**

*(Romans 13:11-14)*

The Bible reminds us that we, as children of God should know the time in which we are living. “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed” (Romans 13:11). We should be awake and spiritually alert in the perilous times in which we are living. This verse reminds us that the final aspect of our salvation, the salvation of our bodies, is drawing nearer. “When we believed” (v. 11), we received salvation from the penalty of sin. That means we believed that Jesus is the all-sufficient Saviour and sacrifice for the penalty of our sins. He died for our sins on the cross of Calvary, suffering the hell penalty in His own body on the cross. His precious blood was shed, washing away our sins. Then He was buried for three days and three nights and on the third day he arose. When we believe in Him, we have eternal, everlasting life. After we are saved from the penalty of sin, we are now being saved from the power and dominion of sin in our lives as we study the Word of God and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then when Jesus returns in the air (1

Thess. 4:13-18), we shall be saved from the presence of sin. This third aspect of salvation is what Paul is writing about in Romans 13:11-14).

The Bible reminds us of “high time” in Romans 13:11. He says that our salvation is nearer and the night is far spent (v. 12). We are to “cast off the works of darkness” (v. 12). The works of darkness are a description of this age in which we are living. As saved people, we have been brought out of darkness and we are now the children of light. Therefore Paul says, “let us put on the armour of light” (v. 12). Our walk in this world is to be an honest walk, putting on the Lord Jesus Christ (vs. 13, 14). The Bible says, “redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16).

The Bible also speaks of “past time.” “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). The Lord, through Paul, is reminding us who are God’s children that before we were saved, our past walk was according to the “course of this world.” In Ephesians 2:12, we were at that time without Christ. Oh, how

terrible it is to be without Christ. A person without Christ is lost and on the way to hell and separation from God. But now, for those who have believed in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, we are God’s children. “Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:10).

Another aspect of time in the Bible is “due time.” This speaks of what Christ has done for us in saving us and delivering us from the penalty of sin. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6). “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). Due time came because in the fullness of time God sent forth His Son to be our Saviour. “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Gal. 4:4,5).

Because of God’s great provision  
*(continued on page 3)*

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# ***THE GOSPEL***

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ” (Rom. 1:16)*

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The word “gospel” means “good news.” We live in a day and age where good news is sorely needed. In Christ we have that good news. The gospel is the good news of “how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). The gospel is the good news of what Christ did for us when He died “the just for the unjust” on Calvary’s cross, was buried, and raised again the third day as the evidence of our justification and acceptance by a holy God.

The gospel is good news, not good advice. Some have mistaken the two. They offer plenty of good advice about how we ought to live, or what we ought to do to be saved, but no good news about how we can be saved by the finished work of Christ. We hear nothing of the fact that “our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’s blood and righteousness.” No sermon should ever be preached without proclaiming the wonderful good news of the gospel. Paul said “Woe is me if I preach not the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:16b).

The gospel is GOOD NEWS FROM GOD its source. The gospel tells us how the offended Sovereign of the universe offers grace, pardon, and mercy through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel is good news about God that He is “propitious” and gracious and that He took the initiative in bringing about reconciliation between God and man, between one who is holy and one who is a sinner. God is then the author of the gospel.

It is also called THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST because the theme of the gospel is Jesus Christ. It speaks

of His humanity. He was the promised seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15), The Seed of Abraham (Psalm 89:36), the One who was born of the Virgin (Matt. 1:18-25), born in Bethlehem’s manger, the seed of David (2 Sam. 7:14-16). He was the Son of Man, one of us, qualified to be our representative. He only could say “I always do the will of my Father who is in Heaven.” When He offered up His life for us, it was a perfect life of infinite value. He “died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18).

The gospel also speaks of His deity. He was declared to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4). “Declared” means demonstrated or made manifest. He has always been God from all eternity. Our Saviour must be both man and God. Jacob’s ladder rested on earth and reached into Heaven. So Jesus, the man, one with man on earth must also be Christ, the Son of God, one with God in Heaven. As such He was qualified, willing, and able to bear our sins. “He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities” (Isa. 53:5). In other words the gospel of God includes, magnifies, and sums up the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The gospel is also called THE GOSPEL OF GRACE (Acts 20:24). We could never earn or merit salvation. We are sinners and deserve to be judged, condemned, and punished by a Holy God. But salvation is “not by works of righteousness which we have done” (Titus 3:5). We have no righteousness, but God gives righteousness freely to all who will believe the gospel. It’s all of His grace.

It is the GOSPEL OF OUR SAL-

VATION (Eph. 1:13). The gospel brings deliverance from the guilt and penalty of sin. It brings deliverance from the power of sin and one day it will bring deliverance from even the presence of sin. This truly is good news.

It is also called the GOSPEL OF PEACE (Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15) because it is the only message which can bring peace between God and man. This peace comes when one accepts and appropriates the good news by faith.

It is also called the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM (Matt. 4:23; 9:35) because it is the only basis on which one may be born again and enter the Kingdom of God and one day share in the reign of Christ.

It is called the EVERLASTING GOSPEL (Rev. 14:6) because God and this gospel brings eternal salvation. It is based on an eternal covenant through Christ’s blood (Heb. 13:20). To all who receive it, the gospel brings eternal salvation (Isa. 45:17), eternal life (John 5:24), eternal love (Jer. 31:3), eternal joy (Isa. 61:7), eternal peace (Isa. 9:7), eternal pleasure (Psalm 16:11), eternal righteousness (Psalm 119:142) and eternal consolation (2 Thess. 2:16).

In light of the events of recent days how we should recognize anew the importance of preaching the gospel. Paul says the gospel is “the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” (Rom. 1:16). Surely we must be in the last days and this is the only message that will change and transform lives, that will give them a future and a hope, for it is truly the gospel of our salvation (Eph. 1:13).

- Larry Windham

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# KNOWING THE TIME

(Continued from page 1)

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for us in salvation, we are now living in the “present time” or the church age waiting the return of Christ. Many times there is suffering, rejection and turmoil for the child of God in this present time. But Paul writes, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). In this present time, God gives us grace in time of need. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16). We are only passing through this world as strangers and pilgrims. We are to pass the time of our sojourn-

ing here in fear (1 Peter 1:17).

The Bible also speaks of the “last time” and the “last days.” According to Hebrews 1:2, the last days began when Jesus came into this world to be our Saviour. “God, who at sundry times and divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Heb. 1:1,2). When we believe in Jesus who died for our sins, was buried and raised again, we are saved and kept securely in Christ. “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last

time” (1 Peter 1:5). “Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time” (1 John 2:18). Jude 18 reminds us there will “be mockers in the last time.” But thank the Lord, Jesus is coming back one day to catch us out of this old sinful world. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sin of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Heb. 9:28).

- Gladwin Carpenter

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# HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOUR

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1st Corinthians 15:1-4 clearly defines the Gospel of Christ. “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.”

Paul gives us several facts that need to be noticed.

The Corinthians had received it and they were standing in the Gospel.

Paul then gives to the elements of

the gospel: Christ died for our sins; nothing else is needed - the gospel is enough.

The gospel Paul preached was according to the Word of God. It was neither his message nor the message of man. It was according to the scriptures (the Old Testament).

Christ was the scapegoat of the Day of Atonement, taking our sins away.

On the third day, He rose again. To verify this he names several witnesses: Cephas or Peter, the twelve (who were skeptical), of Paul also (no other greater enemy of our Lord), and then of above five hundred brethren, (the greater part were still living), then he was seen of Jesus.

Later in this chapter, Paul lists

the terrible consequences if Christ is not risen.

Our preaching is in vain (useless, empty). Our faith is in vain; we are not trusting a dead Savior.

We are not in our sins. Christ paid for our sins and removed them as far as the East is from the West. Christ’s resurrection is evidence that God accepted the payment of sin.

Our loved ones who have fallen asleep have perished.

Then God’s people are the happiest people on earth. God has taken our sins away. We are going to Heaven to be with Him and our loved ones and not to Hell.

Dear friend, this promise is only for those who have trusted the finished work of Christ on the Cross. Is He your Savior?

- Jack Maroon

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## Notice

The North Central and Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conferences will not meet in July. The conferences will meet in August at Calvary Baptist Church in Grenada, MS.

“Holding forth the word of life” (Phil. 2:16) has been the theme of The Word of Life Messenger for many years. How important it is to hold forth the word of life. The inspired word of God reveals to us the living word, the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins, was buried and raised again. In our preaching, teaching and writing we must be faithful to “preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2).

- Gladwin Carpenter

### 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

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3151 Hwy. 43

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