

The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 56

Tupelo, MS – September 2006

No. 9

SUFFICIENT GRACE

God’s grace is sufficient for the child of God. When Paul was given a thorn in the flesh, the Lord said unto him: “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Cor. 12:9). God’s grace was sufficient for Paul during his time of need.

In addition to this aspect of God’s sufficient grace in the life of Paul, may we also notice that God’s grace is sufficient to save. When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, He made the sacrifice that was sufficient in the eyes of a holy and righteous God to take away the penalty of sin. He was buried and after three days, He arose as a guarantee that God had accepted the blood that was shed for us.

Because of the finished work of Jesus, His grace is sufficient to secure or keep His children. “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 (John 5:24). “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb. 10:17). “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you

faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24).

God’s grace is sufficient to succour (to come to one’s aid) the child of God. “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted” (Heb. 2:18). When we are tried and tempted, God’s supply is sufficient for our needs.

God’s marvelous grace sustains the child of God while we walk in this world, waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to return and receive us unto Himself. The word sustain means to give support or relief or to provide what is needed. Aren’t you glad the Lord provided what was needed for our salvation by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus? Then we are provided for by our Heavenly Father in our daily lives as His children. “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19). “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).

Paul reminded Timothy to “endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3). We need God’s soldiering grace today, even as Timothy did many years

ago. “Thou therefore my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2:1). A good soldier of Jesus Christ will be faced with persecutions and opposition at the hands of this old world system. Paul had bonds and afflictions in every city, but he said in Acts 20:24, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

God’s Word also teaches us that we as God’s children need to serve Him. Therefore, we need serving grace to please the Lord. There is a great need in this time of falling away for God’s people to see the need of Christian service. We should be faithful in the study of the Bible and coming to His house to worship on a regular basis. God’s grace teaches us this from His Word. “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” (Titus 2:11, 12).

- Gladwin Carpenter

INCORRUPTIBLE

The Greek word *aphtharsia*, which is translated incorruptible or uncorruptible, is used only a few times in Scripture but presents some very important truths to us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. This word means “unending existence which is not subject to decay or deterioration.” (Strongs)

INCORRUPTIBLE REDEMPTION

First, we have an incorruptible redemption. The Scripture says that we are “born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever” (1 Peter 1:23). This means we are saved by the Holy Spirit’s work in our hearts in which he applies the Word of God to show us our sin, to show us God’s grace for sinners through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8) and to regenerate us and make us new creatures in Christ (Titus 3:5) as we place our faith and trust in Christ’s substitutionary death for us. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Christ through his shed blood “obtained eternal redemption for us” (Heb. 9:12).

INCORRUPTIBLE INHERITANCE

Second, the Scripture tells us that we have an incorruptible inheri-

tance, undefiled, and that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for us. (1 Peter 1:5).

As born again children of God, we are His heirs, and joint-heirs with His Son Jesus Christ through whom we have an inheritance. This inheritance is incorruptible because it belongs to the future life which the risen saints share with God Himself. It is undefiled like our High Priest Jesus Christ is undefiled (Heb. 7:26). It is non-fading, not able to fade away as a flower should. It never loses its value, attraction, substance, or significance. It is reserved in heaven for us, safeguarded and kept for us. Paul reminds us that we all can have an incorruptible crown for disciplined, selfless, endurance in the Christian life. It truly will be worth it when we see Christ.

INCORRUPTIBLE BODIES

Finally, the Scriptures tell us that we will receive incorruptible bodies. 1 Corinthians 15:42, speaking of our bodies, says “It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. Later in this same chapter Paul writes

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a

moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall the brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:41-54).”

How great are the things God by His grace has provided for us. These are things which shall never end, deteriorate, or lose their value. We have an incorruptible redemption, an incorruptible inheritance, and one day we shall have an incorruptible body with which to live with Him, worship Him and serve Him for all eternity. And we shall never have to worry about losing these things because we have an incorruptible God (Rom. 1:27) who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).

- Larry Windham

TRUTH

Recently I preached a sermon on “What is Truth?” Josh McDowell, who works with many college students said recently that surveys show that 91 percent of our college students do not believe in absolute truth. This kind of thinking is grievously wrong and will lead to all kinds of destructive behavior, even the destruction of our nation. The Bible presents universal, absolute truth. It is truth from beginning to end without any error at all. The

Scriptures declare “Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth.” Again, “Thy truth endureth to all generations” and “forever is thy word settled in heaven.” Customs may change but God’s word and truth do not. Moreover, the Spirit is declared to be the “Spirit of Truth.” He resides within the believer and will teach us truth. He points us to Jesus who declares He is “the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father, but by

me.” The Scriptures say that “grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” There is only one Savior, one Judge, and one way to God and it is through Jesus Christ. Also, the church is the pillar and ground of the truth. There is Truth. Look to Jesus! Do you know the Truth? Do you believe the Truth? Your future depends on it.

- Larry Windham

THE SIN OF UNBELIEF

There are many sins cataloged in the scriptures. A careful study of the Word will reveal that failing to believe what God says in His Word concerning His Son and what He has done in putting away man's sin and being raised from the dead on the third day is the only sin that bars the sinner from salvation and eternal life.

I am saying this, knowing that perhaps some will challenge this statement and say that any sin one commits will keep the sinner from being saved. May we honestly hear what our Lord says as recorded in John 3:18: "He that believeth on Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Some perhaps will say that the word "because" in the original is "hoti" and is sometimes rendered "seeing that." This is true, but there are some other things that must be taken into account in the study of this passage. What does the Word say about those who do believe on

the Lord Jesus Christ? The Lord Jesus says "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47). Again, "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" (John 5:24). Again, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). Again, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God..." (1 John 5:1a).

If God does not have and give eternal life to any one on the basis of his believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, surely there is no merit in believing what another says. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). But according to the scriptures one can reject the Word of God and refuse to hear and believe what He says. The Lord Jesus says "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my

words, hath one that judgeth him: the words that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

I repeat, one may commit any sin in the catalogue of sins, with the exception of the so-called "unpardonable sin" and still be saved. But if a person refuses and will not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ he "...is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Israel committed many sins as they journeyed through and around in the wilderness, but there was only one sin that kept them from entering the land that God promised them. What was that sin? Let God's Word answer: "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief" (Heb. 3:19).

It is better and more honoring to God to take what He says than it is to theorize about it and seek to bolster up our notion and opinion about what He says.

- M. E. Wright

GREAT MEN OF THE BIBLE

DAVID - Was first a shepherd boy. 1 Samuel 16:11-13.

He was a warrior and an unmatched soldier. 1 Samuel 17:40, 49-51.

He was a man after God's own heart. Acts 13:22.

He was a musician. He played to please Saul. 1 Samuel 18:10.

He was a sinner. When we read the 12th chapter of 2 Samuel, we see how a sinner saved by grace is plunged into sin; then how the Lord rescued him from such a life.

He was a writer. Many times it is said that the Psalms were written by

David. Romans 4:6-8.

David resembled our Lord in many ways. For example both were born in Bethlehem. Both were of low estate on earth. Both were shepherds. Both were sorely oppressed and persecuted, hated and chased. Both helped others in trouble. Both exalted to kingship after their sufferings. Yet David is so small when compared to our wonderful Saviour. Christ alone could and can give eternal life through His death, burial and resurrection. He alone can give life to the dead. Christ will be King of Kings,

and Lord of Lords.

DEMAS: Was a deserter, a lover of this present world. This was among the last things Paul wrote to Timothy. 2 Timothy 4:10.

DEMETRIUS: A believer, well spoken of by the apostle John, as having a good report of the truth, and of all (believers) men (3 John 12).

Let us be true to our Lord Jesus Christ until death or until He comes for us. We'll be happy while we are true and after the battle is over.

- B. A. Wilson

RADIO PROGRAMS

WCPC – HOUSTON, MS, 940 KC

SATURDAY, 8:30-9:00 A.M.

BRO. FRED HARTLEY

SUNDAY, 7:30-8:00 A.M.

BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

MON.-FRI. 4:55-5:00 P.M.

BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

SATURDAY, 9:15-9:45 A.M.

REEDY'S CHAPEL- BOBBY ADAMS

WBTG 106.3 FM – SHEFFIELD, AL

SUNDAY, 8:15 A.M.

BRO. JOE HOLMES

SUNDAY, 3:30 P.M.- 3:45 P.M.

BRO. BOBBY JOE POSS

WOHT 92.3 FM – GRENADA, MS

MON.-FRI., 7:25 A.M.

DEVOTIONAL: LARRY WINDHAM

SUNDAY, 8:00-8:30 A.M.

ELLIOTT BAPTIST CHURCH

WBIP 99.3 FM – BOONEVILLE, MS

SUNDAY, 8:00 TO 8:30 A.M.

BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

T.V. PROGRAMS

TV-WCVJ - CHANNEL 13 –

GRENADA, MS

TUESDAY, 8:00 P.M.

C.A. FAYARD, JR.

If you are receiving multiple copies of this paper and are not using them, please send your address to:

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 October 2006.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater;

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (Isaiah 55:9-11).

www.atCalvaryBaptist.net

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

SOME ROMAN NOWS

Now of the sinners guilt (Rom. 3:19).

Now of God's righteousness (Rom. 3:21-26).

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace (Rom. 4:4).

Now justified by blood (Rom. 5:9).

Now received the atonement (Rom. 5:11).

Now yield your members servants (Rom. 6:19).

Now free from sin (Rom. 6:22).

Now delivered from the law (Rom. 7:6).

Now no condemnation (Rom. 8:1).

Now time to awake (Rom 13:11).

- Gladwin Carpenter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

3151 Hwy. 43

Word of Life

