

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 56

Tupelo, MS – December 2006

No. 12

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## THE MIND OF CHRIST

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“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). The mind of the Lord Jesus Christ was perfect and clearly shows forth the mind of God.

Jesus had a mind of equality with God, “who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (Phil. 2:6). “The form of God” is not referring to shape because God is a Spirit. Rather it describes the way in which the essential being of God expresses Himself. Here in verse six, it refers to that outward expression which the Lord gives of His inmost nature. As being in the form of God, Jesus is deity. He is God. Even before coming to earth, He was God. Also after He became man, He was still God manifest in perfect flesh. He did not empty Himself of deity when He became man. He was and is one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. Jesus said “If you have seen me you have seen the Father.” “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

In Philippians 2:7, Jesus had a mind of humility. “He made himself of no reputation.” He had the outward expression of a man. “He took upon him the form of a servant” was the outward expression

of a bondsman. He came to minister and to give His life for sinners. “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28).

Jesus had a mind of sacrifice. “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:8). His deity was not viewed from the outside, but from the inside. His humanity was real and viewed from the outside, the God-man without sin. “He humbled himself.” He endured this humiliation by the death of the cross (v. 8). “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” (Romans 5:10). “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb. 2:9). The humiliation of the cross was a terrible and shameful death. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree” (Gal. 3:13).

The writer of Philippians, under

inspiration of the Holy Spirit, goes on and says: “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name” (Phil. 2:9). Not only did Jesus die for our sins in a death of humiliation and shame, but He was buried and raised from the grave. God has highly exalted Jesus. “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant” (Heb. 13:20). We are saved when we believe this glorious truth of His death, burial and resurrection.

God has “given Him a name which is above every name.” “A bruised reed shall he not break and a smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust” (Matt. 12:20, 21).

In this passage, we see that “Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:11). The resurrection and exaltation of Jesus establishes Him as Lord. “For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living” (Romans 14:9).

- Gladwin Carpenter

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# ***THE MUST OF MY SOUL***

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*John 4:22-24*

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“We know what we worship...But the hour cometh and now is when true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (v. 24)

A. Worship is the activity of a redeemed people.

Israel had no song until they had left Egypt, but when they crossed the Red Sea they had a song of praise and worship. They praised God because He was glorious in holiness, great in power, and of great compassion and mercy. They praised Him because He had delivered them from bondage.

We too like the children of Israel have been delivered from the bondage of sin and have been redeemed from the guilt and penalty of sin, clothed in Christ’s righteousness, and made a new creature in Christ. We are now children of the King.

B. Worship is the activity of a Spirit-led people.

“As many as are led by the Spirit they are the Sons of God.” Spirit led worship will result in the Son of God being magnified and glorified. We will grow in the truth. Our love for Him will grow. Our knowledge of Him will increase. Our obedience to Him will be manifested.

C. Worship is the activity of a growing people.

While public worship is not necessary for salvation, worship in spirit and in truth is the foundation of spiritual prosperity. The Psalmist exhorts us to keep the heart because it is out of the heart that flow the issues of life. The neglect of public worship when we are physically able to attend reflects an ungrateful and careless heart and will do damage to every aspect of our spiritual life. Worship is sought by our Lord and He is worthy of our worship. We will not grow much apart from worship. It is a matter of obedience

and love. (see Heb. 10:25-30; Isa. 58:13-14).

In conclusion, let us take heed to the “musts of the soul.” We must be born again. Only through faith in Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection for our sins can we be saved. His death was absolutely necessary for our salvation. The Christian life is not about us, but about Him. He must have the first place. Just as we have been saved by God’s grace, we must have a deep desire that others come to Christ. It is our calling and it honors our Savior. Finally, we must be sure to keep our souls. We are not talking about losing our salvation, but our fellowship and spiritual growth. We must use the means God has provided for our stability and growth. Worship, Bible reading, meditation on the Word, prayer, and obedience are all needed to keep our spiritual health.

- Larry Windham

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# ***REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD***

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“In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins,” (Col. 1:14). “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” (Rom. 3:24). The thought of redemption is to deliver by paying a price. The only price that could deliver a poor Hell-deserving sinner from the penalty of sin is the precious blood of Christ. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and

without spot,” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

There are three Greek words translated redemption in the New Testament. One is “agorazo,” which means to purchase in the market. The second one is “exagorazo” which means to buy out of the market, never to be exposed for sale again. The third word is “lutroo” which means to loose or set free by paying a price.

I call attention to these three words in order for us to get the full meaning of what Christ did for us when He paid the price of redemption through His blood.

The first word, “agorazo” reminds us that Jesus purchased us

out of the slave market of sin. We were in bondage, sold under sin. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...” (Gal. 3:13). Christ has not only bought us out of the slave market, but He bought us out never to be put up for sale again. “But now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Heb. 9:26b). Then He loosed us or set us free. “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,” (John 8:32).

- Gladwin Carpenter

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# ***EPHESIANS: A STUDY OUTLINE***

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*“Living in Heavenly Places” (Compare Colossians 3:1-2)*

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## **Purpose in the Heavens**

Chapter 1 • Key vs.: 3, 20 - Where Christ is enthroned at the right-hand place of power.

## **Placement in the Heavens**

Chapter 2 • Key vs.6 - Where we are seated with Him.

## **Partakers in the Heavens**

Chapter 3 • Key vs. 10 - Where our testimony displays the manifold wisdom of God.

## **Power in the Heavens**

Chapter 4 vs. 1-24 • Key vs.: 8-10 - Where the enthroned Christ bestows powerful gifts to His own.

## **Practicing the Heavens**

Chapters 4 vs. 25 - 6 Verse 9 • Key vs.: 5:1-2 - Where we walk in love, seeing Him who is invisible.

## **Persevering in Heavenly Warfare while on earth!**

Chapter 6 vs. 10-20 • Key vs.: 12 - Where spiritual warfare is taking place “in the heavens” (Rev. 12:7).

## **Peace from the Heavens while on earth!**

Chapter 6 vs. 21-24 • Key vs.: 22 - Where our hearts are comforted because of our heavenly anchor (Heb. 6:17-20)

- R. Charles Blair

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## ***WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT REDEMPTION FROM SIN?***

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“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin” (1 John 3:5).

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

“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 are healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins” (Acts 13:38).

“And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the

propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1,2).

“But he has wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5, 6).

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15).

“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

“The next day John seeth Jesus

coming unto him, and saith, ‘Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world’” (John 1:29).

“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Galatians 1:4).

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him, shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:28).

Do you believe that you have redemption from sins when you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior? These passages, along with many others from God’s Word are our assurance that our sin debt has been paid.

- *The Messenger*

## RADIO PROGRAMS

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Bobby Joe Poss  
Word of Life  
3151 Highway 43

## Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist  
Bible Conference will meet  
with Pleasant Grove Baptist  
Church, located on HWY 41  
south of Pontotoc, MS on  
Friday night, January 12,  
2007.

7:00 - Song, prayer, welcome

7:10 - Bro. Chris Duncan  
Alt. - Bro. Bobby Poss

7:35 - Song

7:40 - Bro. Bobby Adams  
Alt. - Bro. Alton Elrod

8:05 - Song

8:10 - Bro. Billy Little  
Alt. - Bro. John Gray

8:35 - Offering for "The Word  
of Life Messenger,"  
prayer & thanks for  
food.

"And I am sure that, when I  
come unto you, I shall come in  
the fullness of the BLESSING  
OF THE GOSPEL of  
CHRIST" (Rom. 15:29).

Bro. Fred Hartley and  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church  
invite you to this time of Bible  
study.

### 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

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## THE GOSPEL

"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).

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Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657  
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