

The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 56

Tupelo, MS – January 2006

No. 1

THE WORLD

In the great prayer of intercession that our Saviour prayed in John chapter 17, He mentioned the world nineteen times. “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are” (John 17:11). In this verse and in this chapter, our Lord is praying concerning the believer’s relation to the world. This old world system is at enmity with God and He desires His children to live a life of separation from the world. Jesus said “...they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” (John 17:14).

The world system has a mind different from the teachings of God’s Word “Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (I Cor. 1:20, 21). Not only is the wisdom and mind of the world contrary to God but also the spirit of this world system. “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God” (I Cor. 2:12). This world has a fashion that will pass away one day in the future. “And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away”

(I Cor. 7:31). This world has a course that God’s children are not to walk in. “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). James teaches us “that the friendship of the world is enmity with God” and “whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

With these scriptures and thoughts in mind, what should the believer’s attitude be toward the world? We should live in separation from the world. Jesus said in John 15:19 that He has chosen us out of the world. He says in John 17:16 that His children are “not of the world.” The book of Romans 12:2 reminds us: “And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” As long as we are living in this world, we are to run the race that is set before us. “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain” (Phil. 2:15, 16). Yes, we are to hold forth the “word of life.” We are to preach and teach the glorious

good news of how that Christ died for our sins, and that He was buried and raised from the grave. This message can be used of God to save the lost and draw His children to a closer walk with the Lord in this world. One day, as the song writer wrote, we will “bid farewell to the way of the world, to walk in it nevermore.”

The Bible teaches that as New Testament Bible believing churches, we are to go into the world and preach the gospel. The church should not take a back seat every time something of the world blows into town. The church and the Lord’s work should come first.

Jesus came into this world to deliver us. “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” (Gal. 1:4). On the cross of Calvary Jesus shed His precious blood. He was buried in the grave but arose the third day. This message presents a Saviour that not only saves the believer from Hell but “from this present evil world.” “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (II Cor. 5:19). “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

-Gladwin Carpenter

THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God."

Romans mentions five things about "the gospel".

1. **THE GOSPEL** (1:15; 10:16; 11:28; 15:20). This is the Good News of what God has done for sinful men, and which Paul declared he was ready to preach to those in Rome.
2. **THE GOSPEL OF GOD** (1:1; 15:16). This shows that God is the Source of the Good News, which Paul preached as the Word of God.
3. **THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST** (1:9; 1:16; 15:19, 29). The gospel is a heavenly message concerning a heavenly person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and what He accomplished for sinful men by His death, burial and resurrection.
4. **THE GOSPEL OF PEACE** (5:1; 10:15). So called because the message reveals how everything has been settled between God and the sinner, and that peace has been declared.
5. **THE GOSPEL OF PAUL** (1:14, 15; 16:25). The Apostle declares that this message the gospel is his gospel, because Christ entrusted it to him and commissioned him to tell it to others.

All of these five expressions refer to the one message, "the Gospel of the grace of God," which was proclaimed by the Apostle Paul and the early church, and which results in the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes that message.

The gospel is the theme of the apostle.

An important question to ask is "What is the gospel?" The word "gospel" is formed by the combination of a Middle-English word "god" probably an alteration of "good" and an Anglo-Saxon word "spel," meaning "story", or "news". So "the gospel", as the word is used in Scripture, means "good news".

The gospel is not good advice, but good news.

The gospel tells us, not what we must do, but what Christ has done.

The gospel tells us that we may be saved, not because we seek Christ, but because He seeks us (Luke 19:10).

In 1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-5 Paul gives an abbreviated, but complete statement of the gospel. "I declare unto you the gospel...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; and that He was seen..."

- Jack Maroon

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BELIEF IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

- Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. *John 6:47*
- Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. *John 20:29*
- Jesus said unto him, if thou can'st believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. *Mark 9:23*
- And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. *John 6:35*
- I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.
- And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. *Acts 16:31*
- Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. *1 Peter 2:6*
- 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*
- He that believeth on him 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. *John 3:18*
- 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*
- As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumblingstone and rock of offence; and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. *Romans 9:33*
- To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. *Acts 10:43*
- 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*

- Jack Maroon

THE WAY UP IS DOWN

“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:7)

Most of us are very self-centered and think that our striving for personal interest and gain will get us ahead in this world. Jesus demonstrated to us that the truth is just the opposite. Mark says that the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many” (10:45).

When talking with his disciples after James and John had come to Him asking to sit on his right and left hand in his kingdom, Jesus reminded them that his kingdom was different from the ways of this world. He said, “Whosoever of you

will be great among you, shall be your minister” (10:43). The way up then in the kingdom of God is to be willing to do the humblest service for the glory of God. It is only in serving God and others that we find our greatest satisfaction and joy in life. Jesus said “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul” (Mark 8:36). Jesus said, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life will lose it and whosoever will lose his life for my sake and the

gospel’s, the same shall save it.” (Mark 8:34, 35). When we get our eyes off our personal gain and upon Christ and his work, upon the needs of others, we will find that there are immense blessings that will flow our way. But the more we seek to gratify self and the flesh the less real joy and happiness we will have in life. The way up is always down. “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time” (I Peter 5:6).

- Larry Windham

IS YOUR GOD TOO SMALL?

“Those who wait upon the Lord...shall mount up with wings like eagles.” (Isa. 40:31).

Some years ago, J.B. Phillips wrote a book entitled “Is Your God Too Small?” Many today do have a faulty perspective on God. This is because we have become problem-centered rather than God-centered on our approach to the Bible and life. When this happens we lose the proper perspective. Gradually, all our problems begin to look large and the strength of the all mighty God seems small. Hence we create for ourselves much needless worry. Isaiah 40 is an effective answer for

those whose God seems small. God reminds us that He is much bigger than the world He created. He points out that compared to Him, “the nations are as a drop in the bucket” (v. 15) and the inhabitants of the earth “are like grasshoppers” (v. 22). His words are not meant to make fun of us, but rather to encourage us to look to Him and gain His outlook on life. Yet, God offers us more than a new outlook. He offers us something that will enable us to live by that view. When

we depend on Him instead of brooding over our problems, He will renew our strength, and wings of faith will lift our hearts above our difficulties. Some of them may be large, but they are smaller than our great God. He who set the stars in place and controls all the things of this universe can be trusted with the problems of our life. Take heart dear believer, you shall yet praise Him!

- Larry Windham

YE WILL NOT COME TO ME!

When Jesus told the Jews (John 5:40) “Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life,” He was not speaking of an attitude belonging to the Jews only. That is the attitude and disposition of all mankind in its natural state. Man’s will, yea, he vehemently desires, to come to a set of rules to obey, an ordinance to observe, a pilgrimage to make, a “church” to join, any human work to do, in order to get or to keep what he calls “salvation,” but to come to, or believe in Jesus the Christ, and in Him alone and plus nothing, he is

not willing. Like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, man wants nothing at all to do with the only true God. He runs from and hides from Him, and works feverishly and wholly self-satisfied on his man-made “fig-apron” of salvation by human work or merit. Until man’s eyes are opened and he is turned from darkness unto light and from the power of Satan unto God (Acts 26:18), he will pay no heedful attention to God’s message of propitiation and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. As given to the apostle Paul,

the only means at our disposal by which man’s eyes may be opened and he may be turned from his own way of death unto the Lord is the gospel of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:7; I Cor. 15:1-4). It does little or no good, and may do much harm, to bemoan and berate the lost man for his natural condition. The gospel message preached in love and sincere earnestness is what the Lord will use according to His purpose of grace. Let us be busy with that message.

- A.M. Overton

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for February 2006.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with First Baptist Church, Belmont, MS on Tuesday, February 21, 2006. The program begins at 9:55 a.m. with lunch served at the church. The program for the conference will be mailed to the preachers and others who are on the mailing list.

Bro. Trent Jaudon, pastor, and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible study.

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2). “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

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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THE PROPHETS HAVE SPOKEN

As Jesus spoke to the two Emmaus disciples after He had risen from the dead, they were slow to believe. “Then he said unto them, O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken” (Luke 24:25).

The prophets of the Old Testament spoke concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This is revealed in Luke 24:26, where the risen Saviour said: “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?”

Not only have the prophets spoken, but they still speak through the inspired scriptures. “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43). The verb “give” in this verse is in the present tense, which means they still speak as the word of God is read and preached.

- Gladwin Carpenter

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