

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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## **ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS**

“Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16). Here we see God speaking to His people in the Old Testament through the prophet Jeremiah. “A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so; and what will ye do in the end thereof?” (Jeremiah 5:30, 31). Here the people loved that which was against the teachings of God. They had forsaken the old paths that God had given them to walk in. God through Jeremiah told them to ask for the old paths, but they said, “we will not walk therein.” God said the old paths are good.

First of all the old paths are good because of the path of life. “Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:11). The old path is a path of righteousness. “He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake” (Psalm 23:3). Also it is a path of mercy and truth. “All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant

and his testimonies” (Psalm 25:10). In the path of life, we have revealed unto us the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Jesus is the way to heaven because He laid down His life at the cross of calvary, where He paid the sinners sin penalty with His own blood. After He died, He was buried for three days and nights and arose from the grave as our living Saviour.

When a people or nation, whether in Jeremiah’s day or in our day, reject the old paths, they are rejecting the great truths of God’s word concerning His way of salvation and the godly walk of the child of God. Oh, how we need to “stand in the ways, and see and ask for the old paths.”

Not only are the old paths good because of the path of life, but also because, in the old paths, we see paths of rest and contentment for God’s children to walk in. According to Jeremiah 6:16, we must “see” the ways of God first and then “ask” for them. We only see the true ways of God as we read them and hear His word preached.

First there is the given rest that God gives to the believing sinner when we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Then

after we are saved, there is the found rest. “Ye shall FIND rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). The Lord reveals this great truth to us in Matthew 11:28, 29: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

In the sermon on the mount, as Jesus speaks to His disciples, He said: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). Remember here the Lord is speaking to His disciples and to saved people. We need to ask for the good things (Matthew 7:11), seek for the first things (Matthew 6:33), and knock that the precious things of God will be opened to us as He reveals His truth to us through His word (Matthew 7:7).

As we walk in the old paths of God’s word, there is always the light of His word to light our way. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105). We need to ask for the old paths and for the other great things God has for us and receive with thanksgiving the great blessings He has for us.

*-Gladwin Carpenter*

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# *THE PREEMINENT GLORY OF CHRIST*

## *PART III*

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Christ is also preeminent in His ascended glory. After His resurrection He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs by appearing to various individuals and groups for 40 days before He ascended into heaven. The Scriptures say that He “went up,” He was “taken up” and that He was “received up” into heaven and was seated at the right hand of the Father. No space ship conveyed Him into glory; He went up of His own mighty power with angels accompanying Him and all the hosts of heaven welcoming Him. The Scriptures say that He ascended as our Lord (Acts 2:36), as our forerunner (Heb. 6:20), as our intercessor and advocate (Heb. 7:24-25), and as our judge (Acts 17:31). No wonder Paul declared “If you be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth” (Col. 3:1-2). The right hand of God signifies the place of privilege (Heb. 1:13), power (Matt. 26:64), distinction (Heb. 1:3), delight (Psalms 16:11) and dominion (1 Peter 3:22). No wonder all the inhabitants of heaven sing “worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing” (Rev. 5:12). Truly, Christ is preeminent in His ascended glory. He is our Lord and Master; His entrance into heaven guarantees our acceptance by the Father. He is preparing a place for us and right now He is our representative when we are accused of sin before God, assuring our continued acceptance. Finally, He is to be the judge of the saved at the Judgment Seat of Christ and the lost at the Great White Throne Judgment. He has the

name which is above every name. How then should we that are redeemed lift our eyes from the cares and causes of this world and set our affections upon our redeemer, provider, protector and sustainer. Our desire here in this life should always be “whatever we do in word or deed do all for the glory of God” and “that I might know Him and the power of His resurrection.”

Christ is also preeminent in His coming glory. Paul writes “When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall you appear with Him in glory” (Col. 3:4). This same Jesus who ascended into heaven is coming again. We as believers will see him in His glory and share in that glory (John 17:24). John writes “When he shall appear we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). The Scriptures tell us that He comes first for His own. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 describe for us His return prior to the tribulation when he will descend with a shout and the voice of the archangel and the dead in Christ shall rise, we who remain shall be caught up together in the air to meet the Lord and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 says “In a moment in the twinkling of an eye...we shall be changed” (52). We will receive new bodies which will not be subject to sin or the maladies we experience here upon the earth.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be judged for our faithfulness and service and rewarded. At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb we as members of New Testament churches become the Bride of the Lamb, and then shall we return with Him to establish His millennial reign here upon this earth (Rev. 19; Zech. 14). After reigning with Him

a thousand years we will enter into the eternal state to be with Him forever (Rev. 21-22). We shall appear with Him in glory! He will be the center of our worship and praise throughout the ages. He is preeminent in His coming glory.

If Christ is preeminent in the plans and purposes of God, do you know Him? Is He truly present in your life? Has there been a time in your life when the Holy Spirit has shown you that you are a sinner and that you have grievously offended a holy and righteous God? Has He shown you that the wages of this sin is death? Has He shown you that because of your sin and unbelief that you deserve to be separated from God from an eternity and that you deserve to spend that eternity in hell, a lake of fire from which there is no relief from your suffering and anguish? And has He shown you that the sinners only hope is in the substitutionary death of Christ where He died for the sinners sins, dying the just for the unjust to provide the basis on which you could be saved? Has He shown you that all your good works are unacceptable to God, are an abomination to Him and that the only righteousness which will be acceptable is the perfect righteousness of Christ and that this righteousness is freely offered to all who believe?

If Christ is present in your life by faith, is He prominent in your life? Is He a regular part of your life? Do you find joy in His Word, delight in time spent in prayer, pleasure in His presence in worship, and fulfillment in His service? Do those who know you take notice by your conduct, your conversation, your regular attendance at worship, your walk, your witness, and the use of your wealth that Christ is promi-

ment in your life? If He is not prominent in your life, why is he not? What sin in your life is preventing Him from being prominent? Will you confess it to Him, and by His grace forsake it? Have the cares and responsibilities of this life choked Him out? Renew your first love for Him today. Are you placing family and pleasure above your relationship to Him? Remember who is the source of all the blessings you have; the one who gave you your family, the health you have, and the material things you enjoy. Resolve like Joshua of old "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

If Christ is prominent in your life, is He preeminent? Only God can ultimately answer that question. The closer we draw to Him the more we see that we fall short of being what we should be. The more

we recognize that we need Him; the more we recognize that we are sinners saved by grace and without Him we would be nothing. The more we rest in His finished work of redemption; the more we rest in Him alone and have no confidence in the flesh. The more we love Him and the more we rejoice in Him; the more we long for His appearing and even now in our hearts and actions we become like the apostle Paul when He wrote "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Worship, prayer, meditation and Bible study, and service, become not a burden, but a blessing. May our prayer be like David's when he prayed "Search me, O God and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalms 139:22-23). Christ is worthy of pre-

eminence in our lives! An old song by B.B. McKinney says,

Blessed Savior, we adore Thee, we thy love and grace proclaim;

Thou art mighty, thou art holy, Glorious is thy matchless name!

Great redeemer Lord and Master, Light of all eternal days;

Let the saints of every nation sing thy just and endless praise.

From the throne of heaven's glory to the cross of sin and shame,

Thou didst come to die a ransom, guilty sinners to reclaim.

Come, o come, immortal Savior, come and take thy royal throne;

Come, and reign, and reign forever, be the kingdom all thy own!

Glorious is thy name, O Lord! Glorious is thy name, O Lord!

- Larry Windham

## ***WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PRAYER?***

- And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

- And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:22

- And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us; And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. 1 John 5:14, 15

- If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7

- The Lord is far from the wicked; but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

- O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Psalm 65:2

- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye

may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

- The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Psalm 34:17

- Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17

- Be not ye therefore like unto them; for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. Matthew 6:8

- But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Matthew 6:6

- And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye ask any thing in my name, I will do it. John 14:13, 14

- Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye

pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24

- Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3

- Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Matthew 7:7, 8

Isn't it wonderful that the believer in Jesus Christ can go to the Lord in prayer and know that he hears us? So many times we do not pray until we are troubled and need help but we should be going to Him daily with our thanks and praises. We need to ask God to guide us in our daily lives.

- Jack Maroon

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# Notice

The Northeast and North Central MS Baptist Bible Conferences do not have a meeting place for March 2006.



“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8,9).

“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:4-7).

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## LOOKING UNTO JESUS

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). The context of this verse reminds us in Hebrews 12:1 to “run with patience the race that is set before us.” The “author” of our faith means the leader or originator. It is the same word as “captain” in Hebrews 2:10. Our Lord initiates and carries our salvation all the way through. He is the “finisher of our faith.” This means Jesus is the perfecter or completion of salvation. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us that Jesus “endured the cross” or died in our place. He was buried and rose from the grave “and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

—Gladwin Carpenter

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