

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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No. 1

INWARD AND OUTWARD SALVATION

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:12, 13).

These verses of scripture teach us that God works within the child of God in order for there to be a working out of His salvation in our lives. We have inward salvation as a result of the new birth. After the new birth takes place, salvation should show forth in our lives as God’s children.

First may we consider inward salvation. Paul says, “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man” (Romans 7:22). The inward man is the new nature that is born of God when we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus said in John 3:7, “Ye must be born again.” He also said, “that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:15). We have internal life that is eternal through the Lord Jesus Christ. Since this inward life is eternal, it never ends. Therefore the inward man is renewed day by day as we feast on the riches of God’s grace and grow day by day. “For which cause we faint not; but

though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day” (2 Cor. 4:16). God works within the believer “both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). The Holy Spirit lives within every child of God and “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16).

This inward salvation is to be manifested forth outwardly. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12b). This does NOT mean that we work for salvation or do some good deed in order to be saved. The Bible makes it very clear that man cannot be saved from the penalty of sin by works. “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness” (Rom. 4:5). “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). We are saved when we believe that Jesus shed His blood on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins and that He was buried and raised from the grave. “Work out your own salvation” means that we work out the salvation that we already have. When a garden or field is planted, the seed is sown and new

life comes forth. You work out that garden or field to remove the grass and weeds that would be harmful to the growth of the plant. That is what it means to “work out your own salvation.” When the Word of God is preached revealing the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, new life is given to the believer in Christ. Then we as God’s children need to serve the Lord in a way that is pleasing to Him. We are to “do all things without murmurings and disputings: 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” (Phil. 2:14, 15). Notice how these verses reveal that we are already “the sons of God” and we need to “shine as lights” in this dark and sinful world. We need to hold forth the word of life and tell others of the good news of the gospel. “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. 2:16). Paul says “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).

- Gladwin Carpenter

HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

“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).

The measure of love is always its willingness to give, its capacity for sacrifice. If we would measure the love of God, we must measure it by Calvary, by the cross of Christ. Nothing more completely reveals the nature of man and the love of God.

For whom did He give His Son? It was for sinners - for sinners such as you and me. For those who had violated His law, offended His holiness, despised His mercy, abused His creatures, embraced His enemy, and worshiped the works of their own hands. He gave Him for those who did not like to retain the knowledge of God in their hearts and turned to evil vile practices which was repugnant to His holy nature and deserved the fury of His wrath. What amazing love this is that He would love sinners at all.

For what did God give His Son? He gave Him to live as the sinner's representative and to die as the sinner's substitute. The Scriptures declare, “For He (God) hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that he might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21). In His life He obeyed the law for us. In His death, He endured the curse of the law for us. In His life, He was perfectly obedient to the Father in all things. In His death, He bore all our sins and received the wrath of a Holy God as our sub-

stitute. By living and dying He accomplished all that was necessary for our salvation, and now whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. The believer stands accepted in Christ, clothed in His perfect righteousness. The believer sees the awfulness of His sin and the greatness of the love of God in Christ for the Father gave that which was most dear to Him to purchase our salvation. He knows it was all of God's grace that he is saved. He knows that he deserves the wrath of God that was placed on his dear Savior, but he rejoices in the free gracious gift of salvation which God has bestowed upon Him. He rejoices in the one who bore his penalty and purchased his redemption by shedding His own blood. The believer may still sin but, no longer can he truly take delight in sin. He delights that he has a living Saviour who is now seated at the right hand of the Father who ever lives to make intercession for him.

When he sins he has an advocate with the Father who claims him as His own, as one for whom He died. When he is weak, He prays for him that his faith fails not.

Dear believer, God can do nothing greater for you than He has already done, nor can He give you anything greater than He has already given. He who gave His only begotten Son will surely give us anything we need. He who died for us will surely ensure that His work was not in vain. He who gave His only Son to die for us will sure-

ly do anything that we ask that is according to His all wise will. You can trust God with your every need. The Scriptures declare “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him give us all things?”

Oh, friend, if you are seeking pardon and cleansing from sin, peace with God and peace within, power for life's trials and tribulations, assurance, eternal life, joy comfort, hope, meaning and purpose for living now, and a blessed hereafter, do not seek them as a list of things you need. See in Jesus all that poor sinners can ever need for their present and everlasting well-being. God in His love and grace has freely given us all things in Him. Receive Him as God's gift. To have Him is to have a full salvation.

- Larry Windham

• “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)

• “Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”
(1 Tim. 2:6)

• “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
(Titus 2:14)

SAINTS

“To them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be SAINTS” (1 Cor. 1:2).

There is ground for rejoicing when one realizes that a sinner saved by grace and sanctified by the Holy Spirit of God will always be a saint of God. He can have such assurance on the authority of the Holy Scriptures. Though the child of God does not feel any sense of worthiness within himself of such a position and such honor, he knows that he has much merit in Jesus Christ. “He who was rich became poor, that we, through His poverty, might be rich: (2 Cor. 8:9). Yes, we

have much merit in Him.

The position of the saint of God is not a temporary position. It is not subject to man’s decision, decree or desires. What God doeth, He doeth forever. To be a saint of God is to be an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. This position is reached, or granted the moment one comes to see who Jesus is and puts his trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.

When one learns this precious truth, he cannot help but rejoice in that standing he has, though he knows he is not worthy of it. Certain men in military life have been

demoted, given a lower rank, because of some misdemeanor. Others reaching a certain position have lost that position or relationship...but not so with the saint of God. He is a saint now, and will be a saint forever. Let us not lose sight of that blessed position we have because of what God’s Son has done for us and in us.

What joy to know Him, what a privilege to serve Him! I am His and He is mine, forever and ever. God help me to be more faithful to Him Who means so much to me.

- V. L. Buzbee

A MOMENT WITH THE WORD

A Mighty Savior

“They shall call His name Jesus because He shall save his people...” (Matthew 1:21).

I don’t know of anyone or anything that has been given this name.

Then the angel of the Lord added the reasons why His name would be called Jesus.

Because He would save His people from all their sins. There are several things said or implied.

One - He is to do the saving. No

ordinance, work or person is involved or needs to be involved. He is certainly capable of saving. He doesn’t need the assistance from anyone. Thank God my faith is firmly placed in Christ Jesus. This is the reason I have peace about my salvation.

Then I am grateful that He saves me from all my sin. There is no sin too great for Him to remove. Then there aren’t too many for him to save.

How does He do this? It is through His death on the cross and His burial and the Resurrection of Christ on the third day. The Hymn writer has written:

“Saved! Saved! My sins are all pardoned My guilt is all gone!

Saved! Saved! I am saved by the blood of the Crucified One!”

Have you been saved? My prayer is you will see this wonderful truth.

- Bro. Jack Maroon

A CONVERSION PRAYER

When Dr. B.H. Carroll, preacher of power, statesman of wisdom, patriot of courage, founder of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was converted, he prayed this prayer:

Write Thy name on my head that I may think for Thee;

Write Thy name on my lips that I may speak for Thee;

Write Thy name on my feet that I

may walk with and for Thee;

Write Thy name on my hands that I may work with and for Thee;

Write Thy name on my ears that I may listen for Thee;

Write Thy name on my heart that I may love Thee;

Write Thy name on my shoulders that I may bear loads for Thee;

Write Thy name on my eyes that I may see for Thee;

Write thy name all over me that I may be wholly Thine - always and everywhere.

What wonders for the good of humanity and the glory of God if all of us who have had the born-again experience would earnestly, penitently, humbly pray that prayer.

- R. G. Lee

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for February 2007.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with First Baptist Church, Belmont, MS on Tuesday February 20.

The conference will begin at 9:55 a.m. with welcome and prayer. The first speaker will begin at 10:00 a.m. Studies for the day will be in the book of Mark.

Pastor Trent Jaudon and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible preaching.

"I charge thee therefore before god, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and His kingdom; Preach the word..." (2 Tim. 4:1,2a)

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