

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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## ***GOD’S PREPARED PLACES***

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As we search the scriptures, we find that God has always made preparation for His children. Even before His people get there, God prepares for them. May we look at a few of these prepared places in the Bible.

The garden of Eden comes to mind as we think of a place in the Bible where God had a prepared place for Adam. “And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden; and there he put man whom he had formed” (Genesis 2:8). “And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15). When God prepared the garden of Eden, He gave Adam and Eve the responsibility of taking care of it. God makes the preparation and allows His children to enjoy it.

When men began to multiply on the face of the earth, “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Then we see another one of God’s preparations took place. The Lord told Noah to build an ark. This ark was built under the direction of the Lord and by His specifications. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to

the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7). When the flood came, the ark was a safe, prepared refuge for Noah and his family, because “Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Genesis 6:8).

When the Lord delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt, He prepared a lamb for the saving of the firstborn. When the Lord passed through the land of Egypt, He saw the blood of the lamb that had been placed on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses of the children of Egypt. The firstborn in every house where the blood was applied was saved from death.

These instances give us a shadow or type of the deliverance we have in Christ. Through the shed blood of Christ on the cross, His burial and resurrection, we have salvation when we believe in Him.

When the Lord delivered the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, He had a prepared place for them in the land of Canaan. “Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared” (Exodus 23:20).

God also has many prepared persons, places and things in the New

Testament church age for his children today. “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor. 2:9). I am thankful for the infallible, inerrant, inspired written word of God that is given to us for our instruction.

In His word we see that God has a prepared person for our salvation. That one is the Lord Jesus Christ. His birth was prepared and ordained of God. God is the Father of Jesus Christ. He was born without sin. He also lived a perfect life without sin. Then God made preparation for our salvation through His death, burial and resurrection (see 1 Cor. 15:1-4). When we believe in Jesus, we are saved and God has a people prepared for His honor and glory to serve Him in this world and in His local New Testament churches. As John the Baptist came and foretold the coming of Jesus, Luke says: “And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17).

- Gladwin Carpenter

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# ***GOD IS FAITHFUL***

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“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (1 Thess. 5:24). In this passage before us, we have the faithfulness of God. Man’s faithfulness is not under consideration. We are not faithful. When the curtain of time has dropped before us and we depart to be with Christ, it could well be said of us all, I am an unprofitable servant. But not so with God. He is the faithful one. All men do and will fail, but not so with our heavenly Father.

Some seem to think God is wholly dependent on them to bring to pass his promises. But we find in Paul’s letter to Timothy, 2:13 these words, “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he can not deny himself.” Though we utterly fail, our failures do not render God’s faithfulness void. God is oath bound to bring to pass all his promises. The accomplishment of God’s promises rests entirely upon His faithfulness to bring His promises to pass. As a God of Truth, he abideth faithful. He can not deny himself. Both sides of this truth are found in the Book of Genesis. In

God’s dealings with Abraham which read, “And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness” (Gen. 15:5,6). Abraham had only to look to God to fulfill his promise. As far as reproduction was concerned he and Sarah, his wife, were dead. But alas! So like preachers and “so called Christian workers” of today, who try by fleshly means to bring God’s promise to pass. We have the sordid act found in the 16th chapter of Genesis in the birth of Ishmael. The result of it was: there was a son born, a son of Abraham. But it was not the son of promise. So it turned out to be as the Word says in Gal. 4:29, “But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit. Even so it is now.” Abraham had a desire to see the promise of God fulfilled. But his desire for the seed led him to hearken to his wife and resort to fleshly means to bring it to

pass. He seems to have forgotten that “God is faithful.”

Why do men of today resort to fleshly means to reach the sinner after they have given the message of life, the good news of the Lord’s death, burial and resurrection; pointing to the Lamb of God which beareth away the sin of the world, then they admonish lost people to do something. The reason is that they do not believe that “God is faithful” according to His promise to bring life out of death. Abraham learned after the birth of Ishmael that the bringing to pass of God’s promise was of heavenly origin. Wholly apart from any means of the flesh. “Being fully persuaded that what he had promised he was also able to perform” (Romans 4:21). What is this lesson for us today? This! When we preach the message of life, that we will leave the conception and fruit of it in heavenly hands where it belongs. Always remember that God is faithful and able to bring all His promises to pass. “God is Faithful!”

- James White

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## ***USE OF “REDEEMED” IN THE BIBLE***

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As to our Salvation: In Titus 2:14 the believer is said to be redeemed from all iniquity. Just what all is included in this statement? Some of the Bible descriptions of the word iniquity are: stubbornness (1 Sam. 15:23) - “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath rejected thee from being king.” It is something in the heart (Psalm 66:18) - “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” Lawlessness, as in Matt 7:23 - “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” It is, and was that awful thing of crime and sin, that was laid on Jesus in Isaiah 53:6 - “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.”

So Christ redeemed us from the past, the present and the future of all iniquity. The believer is bought with Christ’s blood forever, from birth to glorification, from every sin we have committed in the past, the present and the future.

The believer is said to be redeemed from the curse of the law in Gal. 3:13 - “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” The penalty of the law is the curse. What is the penalty? Death, according to Ezekiel 18:4 - “Behold all souls are mine, as the soul of the son is mine; the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” So Christ redeemed us from death: Past, Present and Future. 2 Cor. 1:10 - “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.” Eph. 1:7 - “In whom we have

redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” What a message we have to proclaim to the world! Tell it everywhere you go, to every person you have the opportunity.

As to our life now, our body future: “Who redeemeth thy life from destruction” (Psa. 103:4). This no doubt has reference to saving our life for service, as God’s children. How many times the Lord has delivered us from the vices of the devil: many, many, we are sure. Then we shall be redeemed from vileness, death, and the grave when our Lord appears the second time. “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” (Heb. 9:28).

- B.A. Wilson

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# THE LOVE OF GOD

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“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).

This is, certainly, one of the inexhaustible verses of the word of the Lord.

I want us to note, first, that as far as I know, there is no reason given in the Scriptures why God should love human beings such as we. We note in the Scripture that man is continually a wicked being (Gen. 6:5) and that man’s heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). But in spite of all this, God loved the world. The word “so,” in our Scripture text expresses the magnitude of God’s love. The greatness of God’s love no man will ever be able to comprehend in this world.

The word “world” speaks of the scope of God’s love. That, of course, includes the human race; whether Jews or Gentiles; religious or irreligious; whether good in our estimation or bad, God loves each individual.

The word “gave” speaks of the sacrificial character of God’s love. In Gal. 1:4, we see that Jesus gave Himself for our sins. That tells us that He voluntarily laid down His life for our sins. Rom. 4:25 says, “He was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification.”

Now, these words about God’s love for us. In Rom. 5:8 we have these words: “God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” Then, in 1 John 4:9-10 these words: “In this was manifested the love of God

toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” Isn’t it wonderful that God so loved us even when we were wretched, hell deserving sinners, and that Jesus died in our place on the cross and was buried and rose again the third day according to the word of the Lord and is living for us today?

May each one of us rejoice more because of the great love the Lord has for us.

“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).  
- Dallas Rich

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## WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS?

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“What manner of Man is this?” Jesus’ disciples exclaimed. For this they had a good reason. So do you and I as we read the gospels. They saw Him lying unconscious in sleep at sea in a little boat in a storm. Now standing up He rebukes the wind and the sea and there is a great calm. Someone has said, “The greatest study of man is man.” I prefer saying, “The greatest study of man is the Son of man.” We can take this exclamation not as an outcry of wonder at this peerless person but an inquiry as to His being. May we look into the Gospel records and seek the answer to the inquiry, “What manner of man is this?”

First, Jesus is a MYSTERIOUS MAN. Jesus told Nicodemus it took a birth from above to understand the truth about Him. He said to Peter “My Father hath revealed this unto thee. Second, He is the MIGHTY

MAN. He faced no task too difficult for Him. He performed everything He wished by the power of His word. Third, He is the MASTERFUL MAN. He never faced a situation involving things, devils, men or angels that He was not in perfect control. Fourth, He is a MERCIFUL MAN. Almost every deed He did and word He spoke reveal this. Fifth, He is the MEDIATORY MAN. Paul puts it this way: “for there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself for a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Tim. 2:5-6). How peace provoking, this Mediator Man stood between us and God our Just and Holy Judge and bore the curse of the law for us! And now risen and glorified, our high priest cleanses us from the defilement of sin. Sixth, He is the MAJESTIC MAN. “All authority is

given unto Me in heaven and in earth” Jesus said in Matthew 28:18. “We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the Heavens” (Heb. 8:3). Seventh, He is the MEANINGFUL MAN. “But now we see not yet all things put under him (Man); but we see Jesus” (Heb. 2:8-9). Everything is in confusion everywhere we look, if we do not see Jesus. He gives meaning to everything. The same MAN who commanded and there was a calm on the little lake of Galilee and peace in the heart of His disciples, has this world in all its ragings and storms as completely in His power. It takes a knowledge of Jesus in all His glorious person, and mighty and gracious works to give us meaning to this world in which we live.

- E.R. Henderson

## RADIO PROGRAMS

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

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

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Bobby Joe Poss

Word of Life

3151 Highway 43

Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

## Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Union Grove Baptist Church, Tilden, MS, located on HWY 25 south of Fulton, MS on Friday, Feb. 8, 2008.

7:00 p.m. - Cecil Fayard

7:25 p.m. - Song

7:30 p.m. - Larry Windham

7:55 p.m. - Song

8:00 p.m. - Billy Thorn

8:25 p.m. - Offering for

"The Word of Life Messenger." A meal will be served after the Conf.

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

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with First Baptist Church, Belmont, MS on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. The conference begins at 10:00 a.m. and closes at 3:00 p.m. Bro. Trent Jaudon, pastor, and the church invite you.

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**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to**

**Bobby Joe Poss**

**3151 Hwy. 43**

**Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657**

## T.V. PROGRAMS

### TV WCVJ - Channel 13

Grenada, MS

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

C.A. Fayard, Jr.

### TV W39CD - Channel 39

Fulton, MS

Website: [www.w39cd.com](http://www.w39cd.com)

Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Belmont, MS

Bro. Trent Jaudon

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.

Bro. Chris Duncan

Bro. Bobby Joe Poss

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Lloyd Minor

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