

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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No. 1

THE CRY OF REDEMPTION

“It is finished” (John 19:30)

Jesus Christ was the only one who in a genuine sense of the words could cry “It is finished.” Incompleteness mars the works of all others. The pen falls from the writer’s hand, the song from the singer’s lips. One after another our lives are marked and marred by sin so that we do not complete or accomplish the things that we would. The same can not be said of our Lord.

When our Lord cried “It is finished” He referred to His own immeasurable sufferings. His bodily sufferings were intense. The spitting, the hitting, and the scourging reflected their contempt and hatred of Him. The mocking, the ridiculing, and the stripping all must have cut deep into His holy heart. Then the crown of thorns that was thrust upon His head, the nails that were driven through His hands and His feet, as He was lifted up for us certainly brought more intense pain. Yet, the greatest of His sufferings were the sufferings of His soul. How heavy must have been that weight when He was bearing the sins of us all. How deep must have been the darkness of loneliness through which He passed as our sin-bearer. He was forsaken for a

moment that we might never be forsaken of God. He thirsted that we might never thirst again, but have a well of life-giving water ever springing up in us. Can we ever thank Him, or love Him even half enough because He suffered for us?

Second, when Jesus cried “It is finished” He referred to His purchase of our eternal redemption. To think that the Prince of Life could die is a marvel. However, to think that He would die for sinners such as us is a marvelous grace. He was born as one of us to be capable of dying. As the Son of God He offered up a life of infinite worth and eternal value. He bore not only our punishment for our sins, but also our guilt. None other could have done what He did. He paid the price that God’s holiness and justice demanded. His sacrifice on Calvary was all-sufficient and final. No other sacrifice for sin will ever be needed. Nothing else is needed for our salvation. His atonement is complete and free to all who repent and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Third, when Jesus cried “It is finished” He referred to the fulfillment of scriptural prophecies concerning

His death. All the Old Testament prophets pointed to the coming Redeemer. Multitudes of prophecies and types make Christ the central focus of the Old Testament revelation. His is the prophet like Moses, the beloved, rejected, and crowned son like Joseph; the priest like Aaron and Melchizedek and the lamb sacrificed upon the altar. He is the willing offering like Isaac, the leader like Joshua, the King like David, and the wise counselor like Solomon. He is these and much more. He is pictured in the Ark of the Covenant, the sacrifice on the brazen altar, the lamb whose blood made propitiation for sin upon the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. Moreover, He is the brazen serpent lifted up on a pole, the Passover lamb whose blood covered all the redeemed; He’s the scapegoat on whom our sins are laid, the Ark which was a shelter from the wrath of God, and the fulfiller of numerous other prophecies. Take Christ out of the Old Testament and it becomes revelation without any real destination, promise without fulfillment.

Fourth, when Christ cried “It is finished” He referred to His com-

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GOD SPEAKS IN HIS WORD

“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God” (Psalm 62:11). How amazing, how wonderful, how glorious that the Holy God has seen fit to speak to us through His Word. We do not hear God speak audibly but we hear Him speak through His infallible, inspired Word. God has told us what He wants us to know in the Bible.

The authority of the Word of God is God Himself. He has given us the scriptures through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (II Tim. 3:16a). Because of this great truth, we can believe every word in the Bible. “For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). Since His Word is settled, man should not add to or take from.

Many years ago I came to believe in the accuracy of God’s Word. I am thankful for Godly pastors and Sunday School teachers who taught me from the King James Bible and encouraged me to memorize verses of scripture. Some believe that our young people need something else today, other than the Word of God. The thing that I remember from my youth that blesses me is the Holy Scriptures. That is what stays with us and keeps us going. Paul said to young Timothy, “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim. 3:15). Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words

shall not pass away” (Matt. 24:35).

The Bible is sufficient for every area of life. As we noted above, the scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation. I am persuaded that you cannot benefit from other teachings of the Bible until you come to see that “salvation is of the Lord” (Jonah 2:9). God has spoken concerning His way, the only way, of salvation. In Genesis, God speaks and shows man is a sinner. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve sinned and man has had a sinful nature ever since. God has also spoken and given us the remedy for man’s sinful state. The Holy Spirit in the Bible guides us into the scriptural teaching of salvation by the grace of God. “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures” (James 1:18). “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). What must the sinner hear and believe in order to be saved? “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are SAVED, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 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” (I Cor. 15:1-4). Have you come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by believing in

His death, burial, and resurrection? The Bible says in John 1:12, “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.” When you come to rest in this glorious truth then you can listen as God speaks to you from His Word concerning your life in His service as a child of God.

God has spoken concerning the importance of His Word to His children. Notice that ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Tim. 3:16). First in this great list is doctrine. Oh, how people need to be taught the doctrines of God’s Word. His Word also reproves us, corrects us where we are wrong, and instructs us in the ways of righteousness.

~ Gladwin Carpenter

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:1-5

THE SHEPHERD AND BISHOP OF OUR SOULS

1 PETER 2:21-25

Christ died a suitable death; that is God accomplished His purpose of the salvation of sinners is through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son. Christ died the innocent on the behalf of the guilty and the innocent in the place of the guilty to purchase our redemption. Having purchased our redemption with His own blood He is now our *Supervisor*. He is described in 1 Peter 2:25 as being the "Bishop of our souls." The word *Bishop* means "overseer." We are no longer our own; we have a Lord in heaven who purchased us with His own blood and claims us for Himself (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We are to obey Him and to follow Him. We are to seek to live for His glory. How precious it should be to us that He who began a good work in us by His grace

(Phil. 1:6) will keep our souls and present us faultless before His presence (Jude 24).

He also is our *Shepherd*. As the Good Shepherd He gave His life for the sheep (John 10:11). As the Great Shepherd, He cares for, guides, protects, and provides for the sheep (Psalms 23; Hebrews 13:20). As the Chief Shepherd, He is coming again for the sheep (1 Peter 5:4). What a privilege to have a Supervisor who takes such good care of us.

Peter also says that Christ is our *Standard*. In 1 Peter 2:21 he says "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." The word *example* in the Greek language was used of a student who was to pattern his work after the example of his teacher.

Likewise, we too, are to look to Jesus as the example for our lives. Some, unfortunately, try to pattern their lives after other men and women and the ways of the world. Only Jesus is the perfect standard. It's not whether I'm as good as someone else, but whether I'm like Jesus. I won't reach His perfect standard, but I can learn a lot by studying Him closely and letting the Holy Spirit make me more like Him.

As believers, our lives are to be submitted to Christ. Only He is our Supervisor, our Shepherd, and our Standard.

~ Larry Windham

GOD'S SHEEP

Lost sheep are FOUND by the Good Shepherd. Just as the man in Luke 15:4 went after that sheep which was lost until he found it, so the Lord came to seek and to save that which was lost. All the sheep have gone astray but "the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and raised again.

After the sheep are found, we are FED from God's Word, "Feed the flock of God which is among you..." (1 Peter 5:2).

God's people are LED by the Good Shepherd. "He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out" (John 10:3).

Also, God's sheep are KEPT. "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck thee out of my hand" (John 10:28).

~ Gladwin Carpenter

THE CRY OF REDEMPTION

(Continued from Page 1)

pletion of the work which the Father had given Him to do during His first coming. He only could say "I always do the will of my Father in heaven." What joy must have been His as He was the servant obedient even unto death (Phil. 2:7). He only could say "I have finished the work thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4).

Fifth, when Christ cried "It is finished" he referred to His victorious triumph over the forces of darkness. Back in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve had sinned God told them He would send a man who would crush the serpent's head though he would bruise his heel

(Gen. 3:15). At Calvary, the Lord Jesus Christ fought off the attacks of Satan which sought our Lord's destruction and our eternal ruin. He triumphantly secured our eternal salvation so that Paul could now declare "Who is he that condemneth?" (Rom. 8:34). The obvious answer is no one. The Father has accepted His Son's sacrifice. There is therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1). Redemption's work is done; now salvation comes to man. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. "It is finished."

~ Larry Windham

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BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

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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, February 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

7:00 - Song, welcome

7:05 - Cecil Fayard

Alt. - Fred Hartley

7:30 - Song

7:35 - Gladwin Carpenter

Alt. - Larry Windham

8:00 - Song

8:05 - Bobby Joe Poss

Alt. - John Gray

8:30 - Offering for "The

Word of Life Messenger"

Bro. Chris Duncan, pastor and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible study. A meal will be served after the conference.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with First Baptist Church, Belmont, MS on Tuesday, February 17 at 9:55 a.m. Bro. Trent Jaudon, Pastor.

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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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