

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 58

Tupelo, MS – February 2008

No. 2

---

---

## GRACE

---

---

When we think of “Biblical Grace,” we think of that act of God whereby He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to take upon Himself the sins of a fallen race, to free them from the curse of the law; from the wages of sin; to justify them and to place them as sons of God. When we examine the meaning of the word from the viewpoint of its popular use among the Greeks, and collect all the scriptures from the Holy Word, we find that this is the meaning, but much more too!

The words “grace and peace” were common greetings in the days of the Apostle Paul. When a person would wish another “grace,” he was wishing all the blessings possible to someone.

### **LIFE OVER DEATH**

First of all, the word meant life over death. The Greeks would wish all the beauty of life to rule over the ugliness of death. Now is that not the meaning of the New Testament usage as well? “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).

The word “quickened” means to make alive. When God manifested His grace toward us, He gave us life over death. This is spiritual life over spiritual death. But wait - This is physical life, too. “So when this corruptible shall have put on incor-

ruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor. 15:54). Only our Lord Jesus Christ can give this kind of life. But, it was necessary that He, one who deserved no death, go through death to give us the victory.

### **BEAUTY OVER UGLINESS**

Another meaning of the word grace is “beauty over ugliness.” This is so true in God’s grace toward sinners. Sin is so ugly. We do not realize this until we contrast it with God’s holiness and beauty. We have a description of this ugliness in Romans 3:11-18. One phrase that I would call your attention to is verse twelve. “They are together become unprofitable.” The word “unprofitable” in the original has the meaning of rotten fruit. Sometimes my wife fails to use the fruit we buy. It becomes rotten, and no matter how we like fruit, it must be thrown into the garbage. That is our picture! We deserve the garbage pit of hell. I could never make that fruit acceptable, but God has done the impossible. He came in our likeness and died for us. If we trust Him, we become new creatures. In the place of hell - there is His heaven. And, beloved, here is best of all. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet

appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

### **HEALTH OVER SICKNESS**

The Greeks meant by the word “grace” that they wished good health over ill-health. Again, we see this meaning carried over into the New Testament. We have already seen that we were dead. That implies ill-health. Also, ill-health is to be unsound and weak. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. – But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6, 8).

That was our description before we accepted God’s grace in the death of His Son. We were “without strength,” “ungodly,” and “sinners.” Dear friend, if you have never accepted God’s gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, that is your description now. All the good works of a dead man could never make him alive. They are dead works! “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).

### **WEALTH OVER POVERTY**

The Greeks would wish one great  
*(Continued on page 2)*

---

---

# GRACE

*(Continued from page 1)*

---

---

wealth over the poverty that was so prevalent. Again we see our condition before God manifest His grace to us. It takes righteousness to see God. This we do not have. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one" (Rom. 3:10). The Lord has made us rich and has given us His righteousness. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21). It is because of this, that He is able to supply our every need. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8). "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

## LIGHT OVER DARKNESS

We think of light as understanding and truth and righteousness. Darkness gives us the thought of sin, fear, and evil deeds. God's grace has brought us light. "In him

was life; and the life was the light of man. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:4-5). "And this is condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:19-21).

## GRACE IN THREE TENSES

Grace has appeared in three tenses. It is past, present, and future. It has an effect upon our Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.

**Past:** "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:25). "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7). Justification is our standing before God. It can never be changed. The righteousness of Christ has been imputed to us and we are the sons of God.

**Present:** God's grace is mani-

festing toward us that we may grow as Christians. This is our sanctification. Sanctification is progressive and we should ever be growing in grace. "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:1). "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18).

**Future:** "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:13).

This "hope to the end" is not hoping to be saved, but it is the blessed hope of the return of the Lord because we are saved. Often times we sit down with our friends to a large dinner. We hear the remark made, "the best is yet to come; I must save room for dessert." That is the picture here. We are enjoying the present grace of God. The best is yet to come. It will be the grace that will be brought by Christ, Himself. It will be the grace that will give us our new glorified bodies at His coming.

- Ferrel Griswold

---

---

# THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

---

---

The scripture for this article is found in Hebrews chapter six, verse nineteen. In this verse the anchor is referred to as "sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."

As the Bible teaches us "the anchor of the soul" is sure. The word "sure" here means certain, safe or secure. In the Lord Jesus Christ the believer has a certain, safe, and secure anchor. "Neverthe-

less the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Tim. 2:19). "By so much more was Jesus made a surety of a better testament" (Heb. 7:22). This verse speaks of Jesus being better than the Old Testament priests. We know our anchor of the soul is sure because after His resurrection, Jesus entered Heaven as our High Priest and Advocate.

The anchor is also described as

"stedfast." This means stable or firm. The anchor of the soul holds stedfast in the storm. When Paul was on a ship in a storm, four anchors were cast into the sea (see Acts 27:29). Later when they took up the anchors, they "made toward the shore" (Acts 27:40). As we head toward shore on the troubled seas of this life, I am glad we have the Lord Jesus Christ as our anchor who has entered within the veil.

You can feel the strength of the anchor during the stress of the storm.

The security of the anchor is manifest in the fact that Jesus is alive. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). The ability of

Jesus to save sinners is revealed to us in the word of God. He came into the world to seek and to save the lost. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross of Calvary, He died in our place. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). After His death for sinners, He was buried in a tomb,

but thank God He arose after three days and three nights. He now keeps us by the power of God. He entered Heaven for us as our forerunner. "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (Heb. 6:20).

- Gladwin Carpenter

---

# THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH

---

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

The truth of this verse has had its effect on the whole human race. The thought is of one person being hired to another, and receiving for his service, "a just recompense of reward" (Heb. 2:2). What an horrible employer! What a destructive service, Sin! What a poisonous wage, Death! But, even in the light of these truths, Sin, the master of employers, has claimed its number, and has paid off in death. "The wages of sin is death."

The natural man hates to hear of truth that exposes him as an accountable being before God. None are excused for the word of God declares that, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Eccl. 7:20). Sin is, indeed, man's worst enemy. Its reward is certain and eternal. Spiritual death is the state of every man outside of the Lord Jesus Christ. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by

sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). This describes the person before he has life in Christ. Sin has corrupted man and brought him into a state of helplessness, as far as his ability to please God in the flesh is concerned. He is just as helpless as Lazarus was to raise himself from the dead. Those who continue in this state until death shall receive the complete wages for sin, which is ETERNAL DEATH. No two words could be brought together that would spell more doom, Death alone is bad enough, but think of eternal death. Nothing but eternal misery. The seal and fall of the lost dead is described thus, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thes. 1:8-9). "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Here is, indeed, a great contrast; The wages of sin, DEATH: The gift of God, ETERNAL LIFE. "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through right-

eousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:21). God has an ocean of provision for man's state. God's provision is the crucified Christ. The believer will never die that death, because the Lord Jesus died for him. For those of you who come to see yourselves as God sees you; helpless, poor, depraved, guilty, and dead in trespasses and sins, there is good news for you. The judgment which you were justly due to suffer was laid on Jesus the Christ. He bore God's wrath against sin on your behalf, therefore, you are freed from wrath. Now you can sing, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

Our only hope of eternal life lies in the fact that God the Father willingly allowed His Son to suffer on the tree of the Cross, the innocent One suffering for the guilty ones. "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21). He was buried and on the third day God raised him from the dead, and He lives today.

Reader friend, if you have ceased trusting in the flesh, then "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

- James P. White

## RADIO PROGRAMS

### WCPC – HOUSTON, MS, 940 KC

SATURDAY, 8:30-9:00 A.M.  
BRO. FRED HARTLEY

SUNDAY, 7:30-8:00 A.M.  
BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

MON.-FRI. 4:55-5:00 P.M.  
BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

SATURDAY, 9:15-9:45 A.M.  
REEDY'S CHAPEL- BOBBY ADAMS

### WBTG 106.3 FM – SHEFFIELD, AL

SUNDAY, 8:15 A.M.  
BRO. JOE HOLMES

### WOHT 92.3 FM – GRENADA, MS

MON.-FRI., 7:25 A.M.  
DEVOTIONAL: LARRY WINDHAM

SUNDAY, 8:00-8:30 A.M.  
ELLIOTT BAPTIST CHURCH

### WBIP 99.3 FM – BOONEVILLE, MS

SUNDAY, 8:00 TO 8:30 A.M.  
BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

*WEBSITE for "The Word  
of Life Messenger"*  
[www.atCalvaryBaptist.net](http://www.atCalvaryBaptist.net)

If you are receiving multiple copies  
of this paper and are not using them,  
please send your address to:

Bobby Joe Poss  
Word of Life  
3151 Highway 43  
Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

## Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist  
Bible Conference does not  
have a meeting place for  
March, 2008.

The North Central MS Baptist  
Bible Conference will meet  
with Liberty Hill Baptist  
Church, 2615 Hwy. 43, Phil  
Campbell, AL on Tuesday,  
March 18, 2008. The confer-  
ence begins at 10:00 a.m. and  
concludes at 2:10 p.m. Lunch  
will be served at 12:00 noon.  
Bro. Bobby Joe Poss and the  
church invite you to this time  
of worship and Bible study.

"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." (1 Cor. 15:3,4).

### WORD OF LIFE MESSENGER

Published Monthly by the  
Northeast Mississippi Baptist  
Pastor's Conference, Inc.  
Editors: Gladwin Carpenter, Larry Windham,  
and Bobby Joe Poss

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

3151 Hwy. 43  
*Word of Life*

