

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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## **THE UNCHANGING GOD**

**“I am the Lord, I change not” (Mal. 3:6)**

As we enter a new year one thing that is certain is that many things will be changing. Scientific information will change. Some things that were thought to be true will be found to be untrue and some things that were thought not to be true will be found to be true. New discoveries will give fresh insights into many fields. New discoveries in the medical field will change the way some diseases are treated or diagnosed. Business activity will change during the year. Some businesses will thrive and grow and others will wither and die. Politics in our country and other countries will change as some leaders will ascend and others will descend and leave the scene. Moreover, in our own personal lives our circumstances will change. Our health, our jobs, our financial status, our relationships, our prospects all may change at any time. None of these things remain the same very long.

In such a world it is good to know that our God does not change. The Father does not change; the Son does not change and the Holy Spirit does not change. They are the same in their attributes and being. They are the same yesterday, today, and forever. In Malachi 3:6 God says “I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” No one can use this

language except God for all other things and all other people are constantly changing. God’s nature is unchangeable; his attributes are unchangeable; his righteousness is unchangeable; his word is unchangeable; his promises are unchangeable; his wisdom is unchangeable; his knowledge is unchangeable and his power is unchangeable.

His nature is unchangeable because He is the eternal God who is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the great “I AM,” the uncaused one without beginning or ending. His attributes are unchanging because He is absolutely perfect in all His ways. “As for God his way is perfect.” His righteousness is unchanging because He is holy in all his ways. He is absolutely pure and in Him is no sin at all. His Word is unchanging because “forever it is settled in heaven.” His Word is always relevant, always true, no matter what is happening on earth. His Word does not need to change with the times or the changing ways of men. His promises are unchanging. The promises that He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will all be fulfilled. The promises that He made to us will all be fulfilled also. When He said “I will never leave you nor forsake you” we can believe it. When He invites us to “cast all our care on Him for

He careth for us” we can believe it. Likewise it is true that when He says “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” we know that when we see ourselves as sinners before a holy God, and recognize that in His grace He sent His own Son to die the sinless in the place of the sinner, we can be saved by trusting in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as the basis of our forgiveness of sin. Hundreds more promises could be quoted and they are all true.

His wisdom is still unchanging. He never had to take counsel of anyone about what He would do. He knows all things eternally and perfectly. His wisdom is displayed in His creation, in His providence, and in His provision for sin. His creation displays His greatness and His power. His providence and purpose ensure that all His plans will be fulfilled. While we may not understand what is going on, He understands perfectly and is never caught by surprise but is always ruling over the affairs of men to bring glory to Himself. His provision for sinners displays how a holy God can be true to His holiness and save sinful men. His own Son became sin for us bearing our penalty and our shame that God in His grace

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# HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE IF WE NEGLECT SO GREAT SALVATION?

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“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” (Heb. 2:3). This was a matter of great concern to the Holy Spirit as he pressed it on the hearts of the early Hebrew saints. If they sensed the meaning of this question, it frightened them. It frightens me now, doesn’t it frighten you? This concerns saved people. It is not to lost people. The principle could be applied to them, but it is to believers. The writer says, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” How often we have the sad experience of suffering the results of neglect of other affairs. “If”... “If I had not neglected my boy when he com-

*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.”*

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plained.” “If I had not neglected my children, and had seen to it that they learned the Word of God.” “If I had not neglected (here we can put in a whole book full of neglects, experiences in every realm of our lives).” Yes, we are all familiar with the results of neglect. The most serious of all neglect is this: “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” It does not say, “How shall we escape Hell?” Every believer in Christ Jesus has already escaped

hell, Christ has suffered the hell for every believer, and the believer is in Christ in his standing before God. “Why worry then?” We do not have to worry about going to hell, but we as saints of God have tremendous responsibilities that should give us great concern every day we live. He does not say, “How shall we escape if we fight against the gospel, if we persecute the saints?” But it says, “If we neglect.” You did not kill your boy by a blow on the head, but he died from neglect. Just don’t do anything about important matters and there follows a train of evil results. Just don’t read the Bible, just don’t pray, just don’t talk to others about Christ Jesus, just don’t teach your children the Word of God. Just don’t go to church, just don’t give to support the gospel, just neglect, just leave these important things alone, do nothing about them, and what have you? We can look about us and see the answer.

Serving the Lord, doing the work He ordained for us to do is a positive aggressive, persistent, self-denying thing. The early disciples demonstrated this at the peril of their lives. Jesus said more than strikes us at first thought when He said: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.” When we think of this so great salvation, wrought out in the death and resurrection of the Son of God, we are brought to exclaim, “How can we, how can He have the heart, how can we be so unresponsive to man’s great need and to Christ’s love and authority to neglect so great salvation.

~ E. R. Henderson

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## THE UNCHANGING GOD

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could give to the believing sinner the perfect righteousness of Christ, so making the sinner fully accepted in Him.

His power is unchanging. Genesis asks “Is there anything too hard for the Lord?” The obvious answer is no. His power ensures His purpose. He is still powerful and nothing can stay His hand.

Not only is He unchanging in all these things, but He is also unchanging in His love. The Scriptures declare “He loveth us.” This love is in the present tense and will always be in the present. Nothing can change the love of God in Christ for us. He loves us just like He loves His Son and the Son loves us just like He loves the Father. Nothing can ever separate us from their love. His love is constant, complete, continuing, and changeless. His love for us sent His Son to the cross to be the propitiation for

our sins, and the Son loved us so much He willingly and voluntarily died in our place. It’s a love that will see us all the way home to glory. He’s the Rock of Ages, the unchanging Son of Righteousness. What a comfort this should be to us. We have one who always thinks of us, loves us, protects us, provides for us, cares for us and even when He has to chasten us He does it because He loves us and he wants something better for us.

Let us therefore rejoice that in the face of change all around, in the face of trials and tribulations we encounter, in the face of great adversaries with whom we struggle we have an unchangeable God who says “I am the Lord; I change not; therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed” (Mal. 3:6). Now that’s a promise that we can lean on this year.

~ Larry Windham

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# WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD

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Let's notice the danger to be averted by the blood. The danger was awful. The Eternal God was about to send the sword through the land.

It was general because no house would be spared. Each family was to be robbed of its crown. The first-born must die.

It was certain because no man could procure redemption.

It was unexpected. It is a terrible picture of the danger that threatens us and from which there is no deliverance except by the blood of the Lamb. That danger is awful. A hiding place, a means of redemption, has no value if danger is not realized. The blood of Jesus, however precious it is in the eyes of God and of the redeemed, has no value for him who has not realized his danger. The world is under the wrath of God. It matters not how happy life is spent or how we boast about our present civilization and prosperity and progress, there hangs over this world a heavy, dark cloud, more terrible than that which hung over Egypt. There is a day of judgment approaching, when anger and wrath, tribulation and anguish shall be recompensed to all disobedience and sin. Christ shall appear in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those who "know not God and that obey not the gospel" (II Thessalonians 1:8). He will pronounce that terrible sentence upon all who do not belong to Him. "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." The devil lulls men to sleep by the business and enjoyment of this world: Death comes - unexpected. Judgment comes - unexpected. While one still puts off to a more convenient season, while another comforts himself with assurance that he will yet sometime be delivered, while still others do not trou-

ble themselves at all about these things - judgment ever draws nearer.

Thank God there is deliverance brought by the blood. Deliverance is planned by God, Himself. Deliverance is through substitution. That was the meaning of the blood of the slaughtered pascal lamb. The Israelite was just as sinful as the Egyptian. If the Israelite got what was rightfully his, then the firstborn of Israel would die just like the Egyptian.

When the Israelite took the lamb and raised the knife to slay that innocent creature for the sake of its blood, he had one thought in his mind, "I am sinful; my house is sin-

ful. The wrath of God is coming tonight. If he acts according to what I deserve then death would enter my house, but I offer this lamb to die for me and my house." That phrase "for me," "in my place," was the one thought in his heart.

God will provide Himself a lamb. He has done this. He has - oh, wonder of wonders! - given His own Son to die in our place. The death which Jesus died was my death. He bore my sins. I need not now die.

My dear friends have you come to see him as your substitute? Are you behind the blood of Jesus Christ? If not will you trust him now as your Saviour?

~ Charles Ellis

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## ARE YOU A SAINT?

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Are you a saint? Perhaps you have never been asked this before. You may never have heard of any one being asked this. You doubtless have heard: Are you a Christian? Are you saved? Are you a child of God? If you can say "yes" to these questions, you can say "yes" to Are you a saint?"

God's people are called saints in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, whether living or dead. If a person is a saint before he dies, he is one after death. He does not have to die to become a saint. A saint is one who has been sanctified. Sanctify means to set apart. So a saint is one who has been set apart. In I Cor. 1:2 Paul says, "To them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus called saints." So we can read it, "To them that are set apart in Christ Jesus, called saints." The Lord Jesus said to Paul in his commission to him, Acts 26:18, "Now I send thee (to the Gentiles) to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to

light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me."

Read the last part of that verse thus: "Among them which are set apart by faith that is in Me." So a saint is one who is set apart in Christ Jesus by faith in Him. If you are a believer in Christ Jesus you can say, "I am a saint." "I am set apart in Christ Jesus." By nature we are in our Adam-standing before God, when we believe God's good news that His Son died for our sins and rose again for our justification, we are taken out of our standing in Adam and put into Christ Jesus who is our standing before God. We are accepted in the beloved. So Paul could say in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in CHRIST JESUS." Read Romans 5:12-21.

~ E. R. Henderson

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