

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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JESUS: GOD’S WAY OF SALVATION

The name Jesus means saviour. Matt. 1:21 says: “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

God chose for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come into this world by the means of the virgin birth. This was contrary to nature because Mary, the mother of Jesus, had not known man. “Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS” (Matt. 1:24-25).

Jesus, God’s way of salvation, is contrary to the natural man. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14). The natural man thinks that he must do something in order to cause God to accept him. One is acceptable unto God only through the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:6 says: “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Man’s ways are not God’s ways. “For my thoughts are not your

thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts: (Isa. 55:8-9). Jesus is God’s way of salvation as seen in John 14:6. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12).

It was necessary that Jesus be born of a virgin and be made flesh in order to die for sinners. Jesus was put to death in the flesh. “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18).

Note, please, that the Son of God existed before He came into this world. Several passages point this out. “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” (John 1:1-2). “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the

John 1:14). “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Gen. 1:26). “And now, O Father, glorify thou with me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was” (John 17:5).

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). “Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:25). “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: For when were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Rom. 5:1, 6, 9). “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb. 2:9).

“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this
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JOB SAW CHRIST

“I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH.” JOB 19:25

The Book of Job is probably the earliest written book of our Scriptures. If this is true, this is the first time we have any record that a person called God “Redeemer.” Over against the pain, suffering, disappointments, and sorrow of this life Job found meaning and purpose in living in this Redeemer.

Job saw three great needs of man which find their answers in Jesus Christ, which go to the core of life. In Job 9:2, Job asked the question, “But how should man be just before God?” Again in Job 14:4 he asks a similar question “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?” Job wanted to know how can a sinful man (of which we are all sinners) find acceptance with a holy God? The answer to this question is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Romans 3:24-25 says “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God.” This means Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins satisfying the demands of a holy God. On the basis of Christ’s substitutionary death, God declares the believing sinner justified, fully accepted and clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

The second need Job saw is found in Job 23:3. He states: “Oh that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come even to His seat!” Job

wants to come into the presence of the invisible God. Jesus answered this need when He told Phillip, “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.” If you want to know what God is like, then look at the Lord Jesus Christ. He has all attributes that God the Father has and He is the One who is the mediator between God and man. He is the Incarnate Word, Emmanuel, God with us. It is only through the Lord Jesus Christ that we come to know the Father. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes unto the Father but by me.”

The last great need that Job saw related to the death of man. “If a man die shall he live again?” (Job 14:14). Job answered in the affirmative. “All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shall call and I will answer Thee” (Job 14b-15a). Job believed that there would be a resurrection day. This hope finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Again He says, “The hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth.”

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” This is the answer to physical death, the resurrecting power of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “Because I live, you shall live also” (John 14:19). Earlier Jesus had said, “The hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear my voice and shall come

forth.” Job also understood that this resurrection involved more than just physical resurrection. The Bible says, “Without holiness, no man shall see God.” He must have new life through faith in Christ, be clothed in Christ’s righteousness. By faith Job declares, “In my flesh I shall see God.” In John 5 Jesus says, “The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live.” Jesus told Martha, “He that believeth in me shall never die.” He was talking about spiritual life, the eternal life which we receive when we are saved. In Christ both spiritual life and new physical life are joined. The Scriptures proclaim a day when “He shall change our vile body that we may be fashioned like His glorious body.” Job had this hope. He affirmed, “I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand in the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another though my heart be consumed within me” (Job 19:25-27).

Job understood the need of man to have right standing before God, to know God, and to have new spiritual life and new bodies. He looked forward to the coming of his Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. We today have the same hope that Job did as we look back upon the completed work of Jesus Christ.

~ Larry Windham

BELIEVING GOD

“As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness. I shall be Satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness” (Psalms 17:15).

Jesus Christ died for the ungodly sinners. He paid the debt for our sins on the cross for us. “Who His own self bare our sins, in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

I believe God, therefore, I am “looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set

before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). Rejoice in Christ Jesus “who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5b).

The sin debt is paid once for all, and no more offerings for sin is necessary. The Resurrection is a proof that God is satisfied with Jesus paying the debt (1 Cor. 15:3-5).

“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). We had no righteousness of our own, but Jesus gives to all believers His righteousness when we believe in Him.

All sinners who come trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ will be accepted in Jesus Christ, and He is our righteousness. “But to him that worketh not, but

believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness . . . Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered . . . Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin (Rom. 4:5, 7-8). Religion does not save, neither the Law, but Grace. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of sinners (Acts 4:12).

Last our text says, “We will be satisfied when we awake, with his likeness.” Jesus Christ is Firstfruits of them that sleep, and we too will be given bodies like unto His. “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 see Him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

Jesus Christ is coming again without a sin offering but to raise those who are trusting Him to glorify our bodies. I believe in God.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Let me ask you a question. Are you trusting in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? He wills that sinners look unto Him and be saved. Whosoever will may come trusting Jesus Christ as He is revealed in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament. For God so loved sinners that He gave His son to die the death of the Cross; of His own will gave Himself for us (John 10:18). No one can present the Believer to the Heavenly Father but Jesus Christ. “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me” (John 14:6). ~ D.C. Hartley

JESUS: GOD'S WAY OF SALVATION

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man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:38-39). “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). “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor. 1:21). “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24).

Christ not only died for sinners and was buried, but he was raised again from the dead. When Christ

died the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. “And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many” (Matt. 27:51-53). “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).

~ Bobby Joe Poss

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for March 2011.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Liberty Hill Baptist Church, 2615 Hwy. 43, Phil Campbell, AL on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The conference will begin at 9:50 a.m. and conclude at 3:10 p.m. Four preachers are on program in the morning and four in the afternoon. Lunch will be served by the church at 12:00 noon. Bro. Bobby Poss and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible study.

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