

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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## **HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE**

*“I will be with him in trouble” Psalms 91:15*

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Here is a very gracious reassurance to the faithful people of God. As to its human authorship, it was written by Moses, the man of the law; yet from beginning to end it speaks of the unmerited grace and favor of God and breathes of divine inspiration. Only a merciful and gracious God could make such a promise to his people who truly love and trust Him.

The appearance of such a promise catches us somewhat by surprise when we look at the surrounding verses of this Psalm for the believer seems to have everything he needs. Angels are given special charge over him. No plague comes near his dwelling. Fierce beasts and the traps of the wicked shall not overcome him. Providence seems to have all smiles and no frowns for him. Yet, we are reminded that God loves us too much to leave us always in the paths of ease.

First, trouble has a permitted place. All of us eventually find this to be true. Yes, there are times of joy and victory. But at other times there are hard challenges and weighty duties. There are times when the burdens seem greater than we can bear; the battles more than we can endure. Again, Sorrow says “Walk a mile with me,” and we with heavy steps can hardly lift our feet to make the journey.

Yet, trouble not only has a permitted place, but it has a precious ministry. It is often through trouble that our Lord demonstrates His sympathetic and protective presence with us. He says “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee. When thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle against thee” (Isa. 43:2). It was when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were cast into the fiery furnace heated to its capacity where their bonds were burned away and they made the most thrilling discovery of the presence of the Son of God with them. It is when the seas “roar” and the mountains “quake” that our heavenly Father shows Himself a very present help in trouble (Psalms 46). It is in the fourth watch of the night when things seem their darkest and the storms seem the fiercest that our Saviour tramples the storms and scatters the night and says to us “Be of good cheer; it is I.” How many of God’s dear saints can also say they made their richest discovery of all that Christ is and does for us in the midst of trouble.

Dear believer has not the Scriptures declared “If He (God the Father) be for us, who can be against us. He that spared not his

own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect, it is God that justifies.” Paul continues “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” (Romans 8:31-34). If God has provided for our greatest need of salvation, will he not provide for our lesser needs here and now. Having saved us, will He forsake us? Of course not!

Yet, let us remember that this promise to transform our troubles into blessings is particularly true for those with a godly heart. “I will be with him in trouble” is not given so much to the superficial worldly believer who lapses into willful backsliding when things are going good and then hurries back in panic when things go wrong, as to the faithful saint. Our Lord is often very merciful even to such fickle Christians, but His choicest blessings and help are to those who are nearest Him. The Psalmist tells us “He that dwelleth (habitually abides) in the secret place of the most high” is the one who can claim this promise. The one whose  
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# THE DEATH OF THE CROSS

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The death of the Cross is directly mentioned in the New Testament at least 175 times. Every great doctrine of the Bible is wrapped in the eternal beauty of the Glory of God and is laid by the Holy Spirit at the foot of the Cross. The Cross and the Christ are represented as one, because they were nailed together. To preach the Cross is to preach the crucified Christ. To glory in the Cross is to glory in the grace of God which, thru death, has put away sin and by which, the enmity of the human heart is slain. To deny the necessity of the Cross is to deny the necessity of the Christ, as Saviour from sin. To deny the power of the Cross is to deny the power of the Christ of the Cross. Thank God for the death of the Cross. Hallelujah for such love!

The death of the Cross is the death of sin as a wall in man's way to the Holy God. The death of the Cross is, to them that believe, the death of death as the penalty or

wages of sin.

Let us notice this death with a prayer in our heart, that the Holy Spirit may reveal more of the greatness of such love. Let us approach this holy meditation with a sense of holiness and joy to see the full payment of sins, our sins, being paid for by the only begotten Son of God. Notice this death.

## **The Death Of The Cross Was A Shameful Death**

In the Roman Empire a person convicted of robbery or murder, was stripped naked and crucified. The Christ of God stripped Himself of His Eternal Glory and gave His life a ransom for all. Here in this shame Christ Jesus was treated as an object criminal (see John 19:23-24). Yes, for all this shame "For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the Cross, despising the shame" (Heb. 12:2). O Glory, what humbleness our Saviour was willing to show. What shame He was willing to suffer.

It is written, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Made a curse for us. Reckoned a curse by both Heaven and earth. He bore our sin and suffered our shame, since sin and shame can never be separated. I wonder, "Are we so ashamed of our sins that you have ceased putting Him to an open shame" (Heb. 6:6)?

O, how terrible it is to see ones who have been saved from eternal wrath, go on in his own way, being ashamed of his Christ. He who was not ashamed to suffer the most terrible death ever devised by evil man, in order that we might be saved from the penalty and power of sin and eternal shame in the lake of fire. O Lord, let us look with a

pure eye of faith upon the shameful death of our Lord, and begin to be proud of Him and testify of His love, we pray.

## **The Death Of The Cross Was A Voluntary Death**

The will of God was always in the heart of Christ. Never any desire or will except God's will. In Christ's complete obedience to God's will, Christ became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross (John 10:17-18). "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Does this sound like a person who could not help himself? No, this is the voice of God speaking forth the power of God. No power of man, but the holy power of the love of God held our Lord on the tree of shame. God's grace is now manifest to a lost world. "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. Hallelujah! We, as Christians, are rich.

O, Christian, never think that Christ was crucified because of His powerlessness. He was able to die because of great power. He said He could call for twelve legions of angels to rescue Him at His trial, but He submitted to the will of God. "All we like sheep have gone astray, we had turned every one to our own way, but the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all." This death was the free, whole-hearted, laying down of life to be raised again for

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## **HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE**

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response to God is true faith and reverent love, who has a humble heart and a sincere desire to please him, and who is regular in prayer, Bible study, and worship seeks him and lives in daily reliance on Him will find this promise most true "I will be with him in trouble." It always pays for a person to believe the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ for sinners, and to walk faithfully with Him after he or she is saved all the days of his or her life.

- Larry Windham

our salvation.

*Living He loved me, dying He saved me. Buried He carried my sins all away, Rising He Justified, Freely forever, someday He's coming. O, glorious day.*

### **The Death Of The Cross Was A Predicted Death**

The suffering Christ, as the Messiah of the Jews, was rejected because of His lowly and meek life on earth. Why such a happening was a stumbling block, is incredible to a Bible scholar, since the Old Testament is full of prophecy, testifying to both the suffering of the Christ and the glory that was to follow. The prophecy began in Gen. 3:15, but the purpose was eternal. "Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Every Jew understood the title the "Lamb of God," as the passover Lamb. In Rev. 13:8 we see that in God's purpose this predicted

death of the Old Testament (Ps. 22, Isa. 53) is brought out in these words, "The lamb slain from the foundation of the world." The Cross was no after thought of God but in past eternity, the sacrifice was given and slain (1 Peter 1:20).

O, my friend, can you realize that the death of the Cross was the purpose of the coming of Christ in His incarnation. Our Lord came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. Remember on the mount of transfiguration, Moses, Elijah and Christ talked about "the death to be accomplished at Jerusalem. The death of Christ, with the glory to follow, is the most preeminent fact in the entire revelation. Why not rejoice in this wonderful death?"

### **The Death Of The Cross Was A Substitutionary Death**

This death was for the purpose of laying down His life to save us from

the penalty of sin, that we might be brought to God. In 2 Cor. 5:21 we hear these words, "God hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." See Titus 2:14, 1 Pet. 2:24, Isa. 53:4-10 for the doctrine of substitution.

The death of Christ, in place of sinners, is God's final and irrevocable settlement with sin. The sacrifices of the Old Testament times could never take away sin, in fact these sacrifices brought remembrance of sins (Heb. 10:34). But, praise God, Christ hath by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified. Rejoice because our sins are paid for. Rejoice because, through faith, we are freed from the curse of the law. May God bless us in our study of this death, we pray in His name, Amen!

- *Rupert Powell*

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# ***THE PRECIOUS WORD OF GOD***

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God's word is precious to the child of God. In the word of God we have "instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). God's righteousness is revealed in the word of God concerning the Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, was buried and raised from the grave. When we believe in Him, God's righteousness is imputed or charged to our account. "Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful" (Psalm 119:138).

In the word of God, we have profitable doctrine (see 2 Tim. 3:16). Doctrine is God teaching us through His word. Oh how we need to be grounded in the doctrines of God's word and to stand for the truth.

By reading and studying God's word we grow as believers in Christ. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18).

Through God's word, "God hath spoken in his holiness..." (Psa. 60:6). God is holy and righteous and when He speaks we should take heed.

In God's word the child of God finds instruction for a clean and pure life. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed there to according to thy word" (Psalm 119:9). "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm

119:105).

The preacher that is called of God should preach the word of God. "Preach the word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord" (Jer. 23:28).

Ready, study and rejoice in the precious word of God. "Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe at thy word. I rejoice in thy word, as one that findeth great spoil" (Psalm 119:162).

- *Gladwin Carpenter*

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## Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference and the North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet in conjunction with the Elliott Baptist Church Spring Revival Conference on April 21-22, 2008. The conference will begin on Monday night, April 21 with supper at 5:30 p.m. The services will begin at 7:00 p.m. On Tuesday morning, April 22 the conference will begin at 9:45 a.m. Speakers throughout the day are to be chosen from the floor. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Tuesday evening supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Evening services: 7:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Wilt Thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" Psa. 85:6. Bro. Cecil Fayard, pastor and the church invite you to this Bible study.

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## T.V. PROGRAMS

### TV WCVJ - Channel 13

Grenada, MS

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

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### 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.

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