

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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## THE COMING OF THE LORD

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*“Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:13-14).*

*“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come” (John 16:13).*

One of the glorious truths of Scripture is the Second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There are more than 300 references to his coming in Scripture. This is then one of the major doctrines of Scripture and should provide great encouragement and hope to us as God’s children. This is perfectly appropriate when we think of the great events recorded in God’s Holy Word. We need to put things in the perspective of a Biblical worldview to see why the second coming is such an important doctrine.

First, think of the creation of this world and all that is in it. The Bible empathetically declares in numerous places that God created all things in this universe. The first book of the Bible in the first verse declares “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The verses that follow help us to understand the creative process day by

day. The Psalmist wrote “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth...Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast” (33:6, 8-9). The writer of Hebrews proclaims under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (11:3). The Bible declares that the only way we understand the origin of this world and all that is in it is through the Word of God. Scriptures declare that each member of the Godhead was involved in creation. John says, speaking of Jesus Christ, “All things were created by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (1:3). Paul writes in Colossians “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, and whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers all things were created by him, and for him” (1:16). Revelation 4:11 says “thou art worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honour and power: for thou pleasure they are and were created.” How we marvel at the creative power of God when we consider the sun, moon, the stars and all vast space of the universe; how we marvel when we consider the variety

and complexity of plant, marine, and animal life upon the earth. But the height of God’s creation on the earth was man himself. Man is just not another animal, but he is a thinking, feeling, rational, and moral being capable of having a full relationship with the living God. He is a living soul fitted for immortality, a life beyond the grave (Genesis 1:26-2:1-25). Fickle, frail, finite, foolish men may believe in blind fate with no god, no truth, no judgment, no hope, and no help, but this is not the message of the Bible. God created all things “good” in six days by his mighty power and perfect wisdom.

But the question arises, why do we have so much suffering, sorrow, separation, and death in the world? Why is it so hard to live in this world? Why are we so often frustrated in this life? Why do we all do things we wish we had not done? This brings us to the second major event recorded in Scripture, the fall of man. Adam and Eve were created by God and placed in the Garden of Eden. What a lofty position man had! Everything that he needed was given to him. What a tragic fall man had! In Genesis 3 we see the solicitor, Satan in the guise of a serpent, casting doubt upon God’s word, ultimately denying God’s word. Here we see his cunning seduction of Eve, deceiving her, and tempting her to eat of the forbidden fruit. And Adam, the head of the human race, also knowingly taking of the fruit and eating. Here enters sin and

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# THE COMMENDATION OF GOD'S LOVE

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God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

The world, and especially the religious world, teaches and preaches that if a person is good, and does good, God loves him, and will finally save him if he keeps on being good and doing good. How different all this is from the plain teaching of the Word of God.

Hear the testimony from God's Word of truth, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins" (I John 4:10). Then again, "In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him (I John 4:9). Those who teach or preach that one becomes a child

of God wholly, or in part, by what he does, or can, or must do, do not believe these plain statements of God concerning how sinners are saved. (Luke 19:10; I Tim. 1:15).

So my friend, if you are waiting to be good enough, or do enough good to get the Lord to save you, you will never be saved, because that is not God's way. Do not think that we are discrediting righteous living, we are not. You will never suffer for a sin you have not committed. So it will pay every one to live the very best life possible, but remember that the unbeliever is dead spiritually, and nothing he can do of himself can give him life. Only Jesus the Christ can do that for him. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our

Lord" (Rom 6:23).

Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47). "He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life" (I John 5:12). So it is, my friend, not a matter of how good one is. "There is none good, but one, that is God" (Mark 10:18). It is not how much good one may do. "There is none that doeth good, no not one" (Rom. 3:12). It is wholly of Christ and His finished work, in taking our place, dying for our sins, being buried and rising the third day according to the Scriptures (I Cor. 15:3-4).

May those of us who know this blessed truth obey our Lord in telling it to others. For this is the greatest work that anyone can do.

-M. E. Wright

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## WORSHIP AND GIVING

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There is an interesting and challenging connection in the Scriptures between worship and giving. "Worship" throughout the Word of God, conveys the idea of "bow down to," "reverence." The heathen worship their gods largely through fear, but the worship of God of the Bible is predominantly motivated by love. Where there is knowledge of God there is a corresponding degree of love. Those who know most of God love Him best. Where love predominates there will always be giving to the object of love. "God so loved...that He gave (John 3:16). Giving is closely associated with worship. Abraham (Gen. 22) said, as he and Isaac started for the place of sacrifice

where he was to offer up the dearest thing in the world to him, "The lad and I will go yonder and WORSHIP." The Psalmist (Psalm 96:8) sang, "give unto the Lord the glory due His name, bring an offering, and come into His courts." We see the wise men (Matt. 2:11) coming to the child Jesus and falling down before Him, "worshiped Him, and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts." Love and reverence delight to give to the one it loves and reveres. Our professed worship is hollow and empty if it does not move us to give ourselves, our time, our labor, and our substance.

-A. M. Overton

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 Corinthians 15:3-4*

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# THE COMING OF THE LORD

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death into the universe. Here is the source of all the sorrow, grief, heartache, and death in the world. Here is the source of all the rebellion against God in this world. Now Adam and Eve know guilt and shame. They hid themselves from God, sew fig leaves to clothe their nakedness and make excuses for their actions. God pronounces upon them judgment. The man will earn his living by the sweat of his brow. Cursed is the ground and sorrow shall be a natural fruit of the earth. Thorns and thistles will spring up to resist man. In the moment they ate of the tree they died spiritually and in time they would die physically. As descendants of Adam, we inherit his sinful nature and are under his curse. We are fallen creatures and the world we live in today is not the same world God created. Sin has marred everything. We are accountable to God, but we are in bondage to sin. We need a saviour – a deliverer.

The third major event that we see in scripture is God's provision of a redeemer, a deliverer for fallen man and fallen creation. It is Jesus Christ as the Divine Redeemer. It is in Jesus Christ that fallen man has redemption from the guilt and penalty of sin, the power of sins, and one day even the presence of sin or the capability of sinning. Paul in Ephesians 1:7 says "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin according to the riches of his grace." The writer of Hebrews after discussing man's lofty position in which he was created to have all things in subjection to him says "But now we see not yet all things put under him" (2:8). What Adam lost, Christ will ultimately reclaim. He goes on to say "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he by the

grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things and by whom all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (2:9-10). God's purposes are in his Son the Lord Jesus who bore our curse of sin that we might share in His glory. "He was wounded for our transgressions; he bore our sins in his own body there on the tree; the Father made him to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him". This salvation that we have in Christ can not be earned by our good works, our baptism, or anything else. It is a free gift of God's grace. Paul wrote "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5). The one who believes the gospel of "how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3-4) has a glorious deliverance from the guilt and penalty of sin, the fear of death and the power of Satan and is made a new creature in Christ Jesus and fitted for His eternal kingdom. It is by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, it is Jesus Christ who comes as the Divine Restorer. Paul prays for the Ephesians that they may know "what is the hope of his calling and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding riches of his power to usward who believe which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also the world to come" (Eph. 1:18-21). It is God's purpose that "he

might gather together in one all things in Christ both, which are in heaven and in earth, even in him (Ephesians 1:10). It is in God's plan that Christ restores all that Adam lost in sin. It is God's plan that Christ be our elder brother, regaining all that Adam lost, and that we be with Him, that we be like Him (we shall have new bodies like his resurrected body and be confirmed in righteousness), that we fully enjoy Him, that we share in His glory, and that we serve Him forever. God has provided for us an inheritance that is reserved in heaven for us, an inheritance that will never lose its value or its luster. He is our inheritance. Moreover, He has made us his inheritance and we are sealed, safe and secure as his people. His mighty power is working for us now and will ensure all that He has promised.

The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will result in the consummation of the redemption of both body and soul. The writer of Hebrews writes "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin (that is a sin-offering) unto salvation." Our Lord told his disciples before his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, "I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am there you may be also" (John 14:3). After his ascension into heaven the angels told those who were gazing into heaven, "Why stand ye gazing into heaven, this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go" (Acts 1:11). From that time to this time believers have been looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

- Larry Windham

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# Notice

The Northeast and North Central MS Baptist Bible Conferences will meet in conjunction with the Spring Bible Conference at Elliott Baptist Church, south of Grenada to the left of Hwy. 51.

The conference begins with supper at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2009. The singing and preaching begins at 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 21, the conference begins at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. The afternoon session is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Tuesday evening session begins at 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Cecil Fayard, pastor, and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible study.

"For the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:25).

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## T.V. PROGRAMS

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Website: [www.w39cd.com](http://www.w39cd.com)

Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church

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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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