

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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FROM GOD TO YOU

The word “divine” is used three times in the New Testament. Divine has to do with God. God is divine in all of His attributes. He is holy, righteous, and without sin. He has given His children many divine blessings out of the abundance of His riches. In this article, we would like to notice the divine blessings of God to you as believers in Christ Jesus.

First, may we notice the divine nature of God that He has given to the child of God in Christ Jesus. “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4). The divine nature of God is given to us from God in the new birth. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “ye must be born again” (John 3:7). Jesus explained to Nicodemus how to be saved or born again. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, “even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14). Jesus was lifted up on the cross of Calvary, and there He died for us to pay the full penalty of our sins. He was buried and three days later He rose from the grave. When we believe in Him, we are saved and become partakers of His divine nature. The divine nature is inward and the

flesh is outward. When we are saved, we still have a fleshly body, but thank God we now have another nature, the inward man, that is born of God. The inward man is nourished by the word of God and is renewed day by day as we read the Bible. “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day” (2 Cor. 4:16).

Next, we notice that God has given to us His divine power. “According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3). We come to a saving knowledge of Jesus when we believe the gospel of His death, burial and resurrection. The gospel “is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). His divine power continues to supply the child of God in things that pertain unto life and godliness. The more we know of Him, the greater we recognize His divine power. The life He speaks of in 2 Peter 1:3 is eternal life. Life and godliness in the life of the child of God is truly a blessing. “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”

(2 Cor. 4:6).

The third place we see the word “divine” is found in Hebrews 9:1 where the scripture states: “Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.” The first ten verses of Hebrews chapter nine describe divine service, as God’s people in the Old Testament served God in the tabernacle. The blood of an innocent animal was offered by the high priest once every year behind the veil on the mercy seat. The people served God on the grounds that a sacrifice had been offered. In Hebrews 9:11-28, we see the divine service of New Testament believers because of the sacrifice of Christ. He was offered one time on the cross for the remission of our sins. “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us” (Heb. 9:12). In order for us to participate in divine service, the divine Son of God had to be crucified, buried and raised from the grave. Because we have a risen Saviour, we can serve God acceptably. “For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds” (Heb. 12:3).

~ Gladwin Carpenter

LIFE AND IMMORTALITY

“Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel” (2 Timothy 1:10)

If Jesus Christ has really done this (and He has!) then He is the greatest figure in all of history and the most important thing is to know Him as Saviour. The two words life and immortality speak of our spiritual life and our physical life, that is the redemption of both the soul and the body.

How has Jesus Christ “abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light?” First, He has done so in Himself. Death is the offspring of sin (Romans 5:12), Christ overcame that which is the cause of death. He was “tempted in all points like as we are.” He was tempted more fiercely than any other person, for he was Satan’s prime target. He “suffered” being tempted (Heb. 2:18; 5:7) yet He sinned not. Therefore, it was “not possible” (Acts

2:24) that He should be held by death. Of moral necessity the sinless Sinbearer rose, and by so doing he stripped death of its power.

Second, He effects “life and immortality” in His people. After man’s fall in Adam, death was imposed not only as a judgment, but as a salvage measure. Mark that word in Genesis 3:22 “Lest he ... live for ever.” Immortality would have put fallen man beyond redemption. Our present wrecked nature must be taken down in death, and new human nature erected, if we are to be saved. Our lord Jesus Christ has removed the sin-barrier between man and God, releasing the life-giving Holy Spirit who effects within us a new spiritual nature. The redemption of the body is included in our Lord’s redemp-

tive work, though the body is not yet actually redeemed (Romans 8:23); but the return of Christ, eternal life in the soul, and immortality of the body shall go together in the consummation of all things. We shall be with Him (eternally in His presence), we shall be like Him (have new bodies like His body, and be confirmed in righteousness), we shall love and worship Him (he is worthy), and we shall serve Him continuously, fruitfully, satisfyingly, and gloriously. Notice that this is brought to light through the gospel, the good news of how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

~ Larry Windham

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE - JESUS CHRIST

Jesus said (John 14:6) “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Through John, the Holy Spirit said (1 John 5:12): “He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” Nothing is clearer in God’s Word than that spiritual life, eternal life, resides in, comes from, and is given by the Lord Jesus Christ. So many people have what they think is salvation, or have a hope of something they are depending on to give them salvation finally, which rests on some one or something else than Jesus. Jesus is eternal life. To know Him is to know life everlasting (John 17:1).

Jesus is God, and is, therefore, eternal, all-powerful and infinite.

He is enough to pay all of our sin debt. He is able to give us eternal life. He is sufficient to guarantee our security for all eternity. We “are complete in Him” (Col. 2:10), and nothing can be added to that which is “complete.” How does one come to have Him? The answer is given in John 1:12, 13: “As many as

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name, which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” “As many as received him . . . were born.” Some attempt to force the “were born” behind the “received him,” but in so doing they flagrantly violate both Scripture and the rules of grammar. To “receive Jesus” is to “believe on his name,” and this requires no effort whatever when one learns from the Word who Jesus is and what He has done.

~ A. M. Overton

MAN'S POSITION BEFORE GOD

As a man, we have no standing with God. For the righteousness of man is as filthy rags (Isa. 54:6). We have all sinned, Romans 3:23. There is none righteous, no, not one, Romans 3:10. Surely this includes all men. Neither is there any one that understands or that seeketh God, Romans 3:11. This leaves a man in the worst position he could be before a just and righteous God. He is lost, condemned, separated, filthy, unrighteous, with no understanding, no ability to seek God. He is therefore unable to save or justify himself.

But, God so loved this sinful creature that He gave His only begotten Son for him that he might have life in him. Yes, God in the Father gave His son, God in the Son, who gave His life on the cross, for the sin of the world, according to the scripture was buried, and arose again on the third day, according to the scriptures. This is the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation. God is able to save unto the utmost those that come to Him by the faith of Jesus Christ. Trusting Him who gave Himself for us. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, Gal. 3:13.

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 Corinthians 5:21. This was an act of God's grace, was perfected in His Son, not of the work of man, but the gift of God who loved us while we were yet sinners.

Therefore, as a believer, one redeemed by the precious blood of the Son, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world, we become new creatures in Christ, 2 Cor. 5:27. For God has made us

alive in Him, Ephesians 2:1. But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name, John 1:12. Now we have a new position before God, we are Sons of His, heirs of all things in Christ and are set apart in Him. He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life, John 5:24. Now we are righteous before God, for God has imputed His righteousness unto us, Romans 4:11 and Romans 4:22-25. God imputes unto us His righteousness if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered for our

offenses, and was raised again for our justification. Therefore, we see our position; he that hath the Son, hath life; he that hath not the Son, hath not life.

Dear reader, what is your position, are you resting in Him? Or are you yet dead in your sins, or do you abide with Him by God's grace through the faith of Him who loved you, and gave His life for you, was buried, and raised the third day. If you believe He is the Christ, God says you are His child, Jesus said, John 8:24, except you believe that I am He, you will die in your sin.

Our position, we believe that we are sons. All who do not believe are lost. Where do you stand?

~ James Corder

GOD'S WORD

The Christian faith is not founded on wishful thinking or human opinions or blind acceptance of tradition, but rather on a tremendous body of real, objective evidence. This evidence is truth . . . it does not violate or contradict the truth that is discovered in the realm of science.

The truth on which the Christian faith is founded is declared in the Holy Scriptures. It is God's Word. Some seem to think that to believe scientific facts one must discard faith in God's Word, or to believe God's Word he must dispense with reason. After all, is it not true that a great God is the Author of both Science and the Scriptures?

If the Bible is in gross error with regard to great truths in the realm of science, then how can it be correct in the matter of man's spiritual need, and the way to meet that need? Of course, there is a vaunted

intellectual superiority that would question the sanity of anyone who claims faith in the Bible. It is natural for godless man to exalt his own intellect and to think he has outgrown his need of any thing or any one that is spiritual in nature. Man's feeling of self-sufficiency is but another proof of the truth of the Bible. God asked Job "Where wast thou when I laid the foundation of the earth?" (Job 38:4).

It is exceedingly unwise and tragically dangerous to look with skepticism upon the glorious message of Jesus Christ. Apart from that message there is no hope, and to deny that message is to refuse heavenly light and spiritual peace. On the other hand, to believe that message is to receive Him who is the "Way, the truth, and the life." God's Word is truth.

~ V. L. Buzbee

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for May 2010.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Double Springs Baptist Church, Savannah, TN on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 (a week earlier than usual). The conference will begin at 9:50 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. with lunch at 12:00 noon. Speakers for the day are: John Gray, Larry Windham, Fred Hartley, Dennis Smithy, Ray Burks, Joe Tully, Gladwin Carpenter, and Cecil Fayard. Bro. Jack Maroon, pastor, and the church invite you.

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