

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).”

The measure of love is always its willingness to give, its capacity for sacrifice. If we would measure the love of God we must measure it by Calvary, by the cross of Christ. Nothing more completely reveals the nature of man and the love of God.

For whom did He give His Son? It was for sinners - for sinners such as you and me. For those who had violated His law, offended His holiness, despised His mercy, abused His creatures, embraced His enemy, and worshiped the works of their own hands. He gave Him for those who did not like to retain the knowledge of God in their hearts and turned to evil vile practices which were repugnant to His holy nature and deserved the fury of His wrath. What amazing love this is that He would love sinners at all.

For what did God give His Son? He gave Him to live as the sinner's representative and to die as the sinner's substitute. The Scriptures declare "For He (God) 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). In His life He obeyed the law for us. In His death He endured the curse of the law for us. In His life He was perfectly obedi-

ent to the Father in all things. In His death He bore all our sins and received the wrath of a Holy God as our substitute. By living and dying He accomplished all that was necessary for our salvation, and now whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. The believer stands accepted in Christ, clothed in His perfect righteousness. The believer sees the awfulness of His sin and the greatness of the love of God in Christ for the Father gave that which was most dear to Him to purchase our salvation. He knows it was all of God's grace that he is saved. He knows that he deserved the wrath of God that was placed on his dear Savior, but he rejoices in the free gracious gift of salvation which God has bestowed upon him. He rejoices in the one who bore his penalty and purchased his redemption by shedding His own blood. The believer may still sin but, no longer can he truly take delight in sin. He delights that he has a living Savior who is now seated at the right hand of the Father who ever lives to make intercession for him.

When he sins he has an advocate with the Father who claims him as His own, as one for whom He died. When he is weak, He prays for him

that his faith fails not.

Dear believer, God can do nothing greater for you than He has not already done, nor can He give you anything greater than He has already given. He who gave His only begotten Son will surely give us anything we need. He who died for us will surely ensure that His work was not in vain. He who gave His only Son to die for us will surely do anything that we ask that is according to His all wise will. You can trust God with your every need. The Scriptures declare "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him give us all things?"

Oh, friend, if you are seeking pardon and cleansing from sin, peace with God and peace within, power for life's trials and tribulations, assurance, eternal life, joy, comfort, hope, meaning and purpose for living now, and a blessed hereafter, do not seek them as a list of things you need. See in Jesus all that poor sinners can ever need for their present and everlasting wellbeing. God in His love and grace has freely given us all things in Him. Receive Him as God's gift. To have Him is to have a full salvation.

~ Larry Windham

ETERNAL LIFE

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). This verse tells us what eternal life is. In this verse, we see that eternal life is knowing God through Jesus Christ. Since He is the “I AM” or the eternal living one, those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ has this same life. Eternal life is the kind of life we have. Eternal life is life without beginning and without end. When we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ we are saved and receive life that has no beginning and has no end, just as God has. Everlasting life, on the other hand, begins when we are saved and lasts forever. The child of God has eternal, everlasting life in the Son.

Eternal life is promised in the word of God. “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2). The promise of life is in Christ Jesus (see II Tim. 1:1). “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life” (I John 2:25). The only kind of life God gives to the believer is eternal, everlasting life. He never promises temporary life.

Also eternal life is purposed by God in Christ Jesus. “According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:11). “And when the Gentiles heard this, (that is eternal life is now given to the Gentiles) they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48).

Eternal life is provided in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” (I John 5:11). Life in the Son is life from God. When Jesus shed His blood on the cross of Calvary, He paid the price to redeem us to God and give us eternal life when we believe in Him. Then our Saviour was buried in the

*“For the wages
of sin is death;
but the gift of God
is eternal life
through
Jesus Christ
our Lord.”
Romans 6:23*

tomb for three days and three nights. On the third day God raised Him from the grave. Through this gospel truth, God provides eternal life to those who believe in Him.

God has manifested this truth to us in His word through the preaching of the gospel. “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; but hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is

committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour” (Titus 1:2,3). What a privilege it is to preach the word of God and the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Eternal life is in the Son of God and as this truth is preached, we can have assurance and joy in Him.

Here are some more scriptures on this great life: “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14,15). “Verily, verily, I say unto you, 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). “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:68,69).

“And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John 10:28). “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:9).

~ Gladwin Carpenter

THE LORD'S CHURCH

When God would have His tabernacle built in the Old Testament days, he called a man and revealed to him the plans to go by. Ex. 25:9 "According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." This statement is repeated many times throughout the rest of the book. So God had a plan because He was the Divine architect of His church. Heb. 8:5 "See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

A Divine Builder constructed the church. Matt. 16:13-18 "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In Acts 2:479 "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." In Acts 2:41 there were added about three thousand souls. It was necessary for the church to be already existing to add to it.

The church has a Divine Purchas-

er. Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Eph. 5:25 "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." He bought the church with His death, burial and resurrection.

There are those who talk about an invisible, universal church. They speak about the big church in the sky. It is strange to me that Jesus

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Eph. 5:25

spoke of the church in terms like a body (Eph. 1:22-23), a building (I Cor. 3:9), a bride (I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32). These are figures that suggest a local visible, tangible church. The only invisible church that I know anything about is the one on Sunday night that is supposed to be assembled together for worship and does not.

The family of God and the church of God are two different things. Those in the family are not in the church just because they are in the family of God. They must join the church on profession of faith in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and after baptism they are accepted as members. There is no indication

from the word of God that you are baptized into the church by the Holy Spirit. We all receive the Holy Spirit when we are saved and are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Only a saved person can receive baptism by the church. It is an answer of a good conscience toward God. It is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord. It is also a statement of what has happened in our life. We have died to the old man, have been made alive in the inner man, and we are to walk in newness of life. What a joy to be baptized in water like our Lord was. We are identifying with him.

The local church is the only kind that can have pastors and deacons; and other officers and teachers. The local church has been given by our Lord himself our marching orders. Let us honor and respect the local church. It is a great joy to be a member of the Lord's church.

We are banded together for fellowship and service. We have the gospel committed to us to carry to lost people. We have the good news to tell, that Christ died for our sins, was buried and raised the third day for our justification. We are to tell lost people that Christ has reconciled God and the lost sinner by his death. He paid in full on the cross the sin payment. He suffered the penalty of our sins. He suffered the hell debt for us, was raised up and is seated on the right hand of the Father. What a message we have to carry to lost sinners! Let's join hands and hearts to carry out the great commission in His church.

~ Charles Ellis

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Notice

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

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Double Springs Baptist Church, Savannah, Tennessee on Tuesday, May 17th, 2011.

The conference begins at 9:50 a.m. with welcome, song and prayer. The first message is at 10:00 a.m. There will be four messages in the morning and three in the afternoon. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Bro. Jack Maroon, pastor and the church invite you.

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