

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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## VICTORY IS GIVEN

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The victory we speak of in this brief message is not a victory to be won by hard effort but a victory that is given from God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us take a look at this passage of scripture: “Thanks be to God who giveth us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:57). Here you see victory that is not earned but given. The gift is from God. The gift is through our Lord Jesus Christ. Victory is GIVEN. May each of us receive rich blessings as we engage to study some scriptures on this great and most current topic.

“Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might” (1 Chron. 29:11, 12). Here we see that God is above all and has the power to give victory.

We forget that He reigns. Times of distress come and we are ready to despair. We should remember that the Scripture said the kingdom is His and He is Head above all. “O Sing unto the Lord a new song; he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory” (Ps. 98:1). Past victories have been His. Future victories shall be His. He is the Mighty, the Powerful, the Marvelous Leader against the foe. Is He your Captain? Are you enlisted in His army? He leads. He commands.

He conquers. Will you be able to march in His great victorious army and sing the song of victory through our Lord Jesus Christ?

There is, however, this further consideration. “The soul that sinneth it shall die.” “The wages of sin is death.” “There is none righteous, no not one.” “There is no difference: for all have sinned.” “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.” These are words from God. These are words recorded in His book, the Bible.

What, then, can be done about the sin problem? What has been done about it? This should be our concern. To give brief answer we cite scripture. “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 made alive in the spirit” (1 Peter 3:18).

“Who his own self bare (carried up to the tree) our sins in his own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). This is the sin problem dealt with. “Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). Are you able to see Jesus, the perfect, spotless Lamb of God as taking your place under the guilt and penalty of sin? “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

Then, there is more to be said about victory. In the closing verses of First Corinthians we have words

that give great joy. Victory over death, over the grave, and in resurrection, are comforting truths found in these verses. Victory is always to be thought of as from God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has led the way through death. He has won the victory over death. He has gone to the grave and down in the tomb has left the Victor’s sign. “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said,” are the wonderful words of truth they spoke. So, through our Lord Jesus Christ we have victory over death and over the grave.

And then, this other word in closing this message. Begin with verses fifty-two and finish reading the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians. “The trumpet shall sound.” “The dead shall be raised.” “We shall be changed.” These are some of the expressions you may find. We understand this in language describing the time when Jesus comes. The time when “the dead in Christ shall rise.” The time when the living saints shall be changed. Then is the time of meeting the Lord in the air. “Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Cor. 15:54, 55).

“This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection” (Rev. 20:5, 6). “Thanks be to God who GIVETH us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Rupert Powell

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# GOD'S GOOD PLEASURE

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The title of God's pleasure - **GOD OF PEACE.** Romans 15:33 - "Now the God of peace be with you all, amen." 1 Thess. 5:23 - "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." We have peace through Jesus Christ. Eph. 2:14 - "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."

The man of God's pleasure - **OUR LORD JESUS.** Proverbs 8:30 - "Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him."

The act of God's pleasure - **BROUGHT AGAIN FROM THE DEAD** Acts 2:22, 24 - "Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know, whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains

of death, because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

The Sacrifice of God's pleasure - **THE BLOOD OF THE EVER-LASTING COVENANT.** Isa. 53:10 - "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him, he hath put him to grief. When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand." Heb 12:2 - "Looking unto 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."

The people of God's pleasure - **MAKE YOU PERFECT.** Eph. 1:5, 9 - "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to the good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself." This is ours through the gospel." Eph. 1:13 - "in whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel

of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise."

The purpose of God's pleasure - **TO DO HIS WILL.** Heb. 10:36 - "For ye have need of patience that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

The process of God's pleasure - **WORKING IN YOU THAT WHICH IS WELLPLEASING IN HIS SIGHT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.** Heb. 13:21 - "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever amen."

This is according to the good pleasure of his will. Eph. 1:5. It is a joy to the sinner to be saved by the grace of God. We rejoice to know that Jesus died for our sins and was raised again for our justification. But it is also God's good pleasure to save us.

- Charles Ellis

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## EPHESIANS: A STUDY OUTLINE

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*"Living in Heavenly Places" (Compare Colossians 3:1-2)*

<b>Purpose in the Heavens</b> <i>Where Christ is enthroned at the right-hand place of power</i>	Chapter 1	Key vs., 3, 20
<b>Placement in the Heavens</b> <i>Where we are seated with Him</i>	Chapter 2	Key vs., 2:6
<b>Partakers in the Heavens</b> <i>Where our testimony displays the manifold wisdom of God</i>	Chapter 3	Key vs., 3:10
<b>Power in the Heavens</b> <i>Where the enthroned Christ bestows powerful gifts to His own</i>	4:1-24	Key vs., 8-10
<b>Practicing the Heavens in the earthly!</b> <i>Where we walk in love, seeing Him who is invisible</i>	4:25 - 6:9	Key vs., 5:1-2
<b>Persevering in Heavenly Warfare while on earth!</b> <i>Where spiritual warfare is taking place "in the heavens" (Rev. 12:7)</i>	6:10-20	Key vs., 12
<b>Peace from the Heavens while on earth!</b> <i>Where our hearts are comforted because of our heavenly anchor (Heb. 5:17-20)</i>	6:21-24	Key vs., 22

- R. Charles Blair

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# LIFE FROM GOD

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The Bible teaches us that the child of God is saved eternally, safe and secure in the Lord Jesus Christ. What is eternal life? The Bible answers this question for us in John 17:3 - "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." This verse makes it clear that when we come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, we have eternal life. Coming to know Him means that we believe in His finished work at the cross and His resurrection from the grave.

In John 3:15-16, God through the Apostle John uses the words eternal and everlasting. He reminds us in verse 15 "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have

ETERNAL life." Then in verse 16 he says: "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." I believe these two words express the glorious truth of our eternal salvation. When you come to believe and rest in the fact that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and raised again, you have everlasting life. The believer receives life from God that lasts forever or is everlasting. The word ETERNAL is the kind of life God has. God is eternal, without beginning or ending. We did not have this life until we came to rest in the finished work of Christ. The moment we receive Jesus as our

Saviour, we also receive the kind of life God has, which is eternal life. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). "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).

Have you come to see that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and raised again? If so, you have life from God, which is eternal and everlasting.

- Gladwin Carpenter

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## INCORRUPTIBLE

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The Greek word *aphtharsia* which is translated incorruptible or uncorruptible is used only a few times in Scripture, but presents some very important truths to us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. This word means "unending existence which is not subject to decay or deterioration." (Strongs)

### INCORRUPTIBLE REDEMPTION

First, we have an incorruptible redemption. The Scripture says that we are "born again" not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:23). This means we are saved by the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts in which he applies the Word of God to show us our sin, to show us God's grace for sinners through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8) and to regenerate us and make us new creatures in Christ (Titus 3:5) as we place our faith and trust in Christ's substitutionary death for us. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Christ through his shed blood "obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12).

### INCORRUPTIBLE INHERITANCE

Second, the Scripture tells us that

we have an incorruptible inheritance, undefiled, and that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for us (1 Peter 1:5). As born again children of God, we are His heirs, and joint-heirs with His Son Jesus Christ through whom we have an inheritance. This inheritance is incorruptible because it belongs to the future life which the risen saints share with God Himself. It is undefiled like our High Priest Jesus Christ is undefiled (Heb. 7:26). It is non-fading, not able to fade away as a flower should. It never loses its value, attraction, substance, or significance. It is reserved in heaven for us, safeguarded and kept for us. Paul reminds us that we all have an incorruptible crown for disciplined, selfless, endurance in the Christian life. It truly will be worth it when we see Christ.

### INCORRUPTIBLE BODIES

Finally, the Scriptures tell us that we will receive incorruptible bodies. 1 Corinthians 15:42, speaking of our bodies, says "It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption." Later in this same chapter, Paul writes:

"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall the brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:51-54).

How great are the things God by His grace has provided for us. These are things which shall never end, deteriorate, or lose their value. We have an incorruptible redemption, an incorruptible inheritance, and one day we shall have an incorruptible body with which to live with Him, worship Him and serve Him for all eternity. And we shall never have to worry about losing these things because we have an incorruptible God (Rom. 1:27) who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).

- Larry Windham

## RADIO PROGRAMS

### WCPC – HOUSTON, MS, 940 KC

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SUNDAY, 7:30-8:00 A.M.

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If you are receiving multiple copies of this paper and are not using them, please send your address to:

Bobby Joe Poss

Word of Life

3151 Highway 43

Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

## Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference does not have a meeting place for June, 2008. The conference will meet with Center Hill Baptist Church in July.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1350 Old Hwy 12, Starkville, MS on Tuesday, June 17, 2008. The conference will begin at 10:05 a.m. and conclude at 2:05 p.m. Theme: "Press On To Maturity." Speakers on program are: Kenny Hodges, Dennis Smithey, Bobby Poss, Gerald McKibben, and Bobby Adams.

Bro. Kenny Hodges, pastor and the church invite you to this time of Bible study. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Pet. 1:25).

## WORD OF LIFE MESSENGER

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Editors: Gladwin Carpenter, Larry Windham,  
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**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to**

**Bobby Joe Poss**

**3151 Hwy. 43**

**Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657**

## T.V. PROGRAMS

### TV WCVJ - Channel 13

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*Tuesday*, 8:00 p.m.

C.A. Fayard, Jr.

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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.

Bro. Lloyd Minor

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