

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

“Salvation is of the Lord” Jonah 2:9

Many people have a false understanding of salvation. They think that salvation is based upon something they have done. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Good works will not save me, baptism will not save me, church membership will not save me, repeating a prayer or walking an aisle will not save me. The scripture says “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.” Paul also wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.” What sinful man needed God in his grace has provided in His Son!

Have you ever considered how complete that salvation God provides is? Have you ever considered that our salvation, our preservation, our sanctification, and our future glorification are all works of the Lord? In salvation it is He who brings the gospel to me, sends his Spirit to enlighten me as to my sin and my need of a Saviour and to point me to the finished work of Christ crucified and risen for me. By God’s purpose and grace “He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Our standing and our acceptance are found in Him and in Him we are kept by the power of God. The sinner has this deliverance and acceptance the moment he believes the

gospel of Christ by faith and it is the Holy Spirit who makes that truth to us.

He is also everything in relation to my spiritual life. If I am prayerful, God makes me prayerful. If I have spiritual graces, they are God’s gifts to me. If I live a consistent Christian life, it is He who upholds me with His right hand. The consecrated life that I live is Christ in me the assurance of glory. If I persevere in the faith it is He who first worked it in me. Whatever goodness I have, it is all of God’s grace alone. Now when I sin that is all of me alone, but when I act rightly, that is of God wholly and completely. If I have victory over Satan and spiritual enemies it is He who gives me the victory. If I am sanctified, I did not cleanse myself. Are my affections set on Christ and things above? I did not wean myself from the world. Have I grown in the grace and knowledge of my Saviour? It is He who has been my instructor. If I delight in the Lord I have much in which to delight and He never disappoints so that I find in God all that I want and need and in me sin and misery. Even in His chastening He is weaning me from the world and teaching me to love righteousness and hate iniquity. Gradually, He is changing me into the image of his Son day by day by His Spirit within me and His word. He is making His Word my necessary food so that I love His Word

and find that it has rich meaning to me. Because I am still a sinner the process may seem uneven at times, but He is preparing me for His eternal kingdom. He will perfect that which concerns me (Psalms 138:8).

Do I need strength for the day, for the challenges ahead? Then I will look to heaven’s hills from which cometh my help. I am reminded as my Saviour said “without me you can do nothing.” He is my Saviour, He is my keeper, He is my sustainer, He is my sanctifier, and He will be my glorification. He will be with me in trouble. Salvation of the Lord is a complete, full salvation. He is all I need for justification, sanctification, forgiveness, acceptance, sonship, preservation, and ultimate glorification. Like the Apostle Paul having heard and believed the gospel of how that Christ died for my sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures let me also learn “but by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was within me” (1 Corinthians 15:10). What Jonah learned in the depth of the sea, let me learn on my knees, “Salvation is of the Lord.” We love Him because He first loved us.

~Larry Windham

A REFUGE IN THE STORM

“The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33:27). “For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall” (Isa. 25:40).

When we find storms in the Bible, we don’t have to look far until we see that Jesus is a refuge from the storm. Storms are frightening and life threatening, but Jesus gives peace from the storms. The book of Mark chapter four records Jesus as He taught by the sea side. When the evening was come, Jesus gave instruction to pass over to the other side of the sea. As He slept in the back part of the ship a storm came up. He was awakened by those who were with Him in the ship. “He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm” (Mark 4:39). It is always good to see a calm after the storm.

The Lord God is a refuge from the storm, as shadow from the heat and a strength to the poor and needy (Isa. 25:4). He is also a refuge in times of trouble (Psa. 9:9). He is a strong refuge in times of weakness (Psa. 71:7).

David said, “I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living” (Psa. 142:4,5). Refuge fails many times in this world. When it fails, look to the Lord, even as David did. As I read these verses, I am reminded of a great truth. “I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me,” but I can look on God’s right hand and find that there is one exalted and seated who does know me and forever keeps and makes intercession for me. This one is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ who went to Calvary’s cross and died for my sins, was buried and raised from

the grave.

My friend, there are many storms that come our way while we are passing through this life. You may be passing through a storm. The only way to have victory in the storm is in and through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We must flee to Him, who is the Rock of salvation. “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast ...” (Heb. 6:17-19). The word “consolation” in verse eighteen means encouragement. We can have encouragement in the storms of life as we behold “the hope set before us.”

~ Gladwin Carpenter

THINGS WHICH WE OBTAIN BY FAITH

Salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.” We are saved by grace but we receive it by or through faith.

Justification. Romans 5:1 “therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Justified means just as if I had never sinned. So we can say that by faith we are just as we had never sinned. It is a court term and means to declare

right. Sin has carried us into court but by faith we are set free. We are set free because Jesus has paid our sin debt on the cross in our behalf.

Introduction. Romans 5:2 “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. We are introduced to God himself. The word access means we have a proper introduction in the presence of God. We are introduced to God himself. What a great privilege is ours by faith.

Adoption. Galatians 3:26 “For ye

are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” Every person who is a member of the family of God, becomes a member by faith. As a child of God we are adopted into the family as sons with all the rights and privileges as children.

Sanctification. Acts 26:18 “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” We

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FIGURES OF THE WORD OF GOD

The word of God is compared to a hammer, Jeremiah 23:29. "Is not my word like as a fire? said the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? The hard heart of the sinner can be broken in pieces with a hammer. We should not be afraid to use the word of God on hard hearted people. The power is in the word. The gospel is the power of God. Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

The Bible is compared to a fire. Jeremiah 23:29 "The heart that is cold and indifferent can be melted with the word. It is a fire. It is able to purge."

The Word is compared to a lamp. Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The children of Israel were led through the wilderness by the cloud. There is no reason for us to walk in darkness, for we have the word as a lamp. II Corinthians 4:3-4 "But if our gospel is hid, it is hid

to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

The Bible is compared to a sword. Hebrew 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discern-er of the thoughts and intents of the hearts." The Bible is like a sword to pierce to the heart. It is like a two edged sword. It cuts both ways. The Bible reveals the heart to us.

The Bible is compared to a mirror. James 1:23 "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass." As we look into the word of God we see ourselves. The word reveals our needs and also reveals the Lord Jesus Christ to meet that need.

The word of God is compared to food. I Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word,

that ye may grow thereby." Peter tells the saints in his second letter to grow in grace and knowledge." The Bible is food for our souls. If we are normal we will desire the word of God.

The word of God is compared to water to cleanse. Psalms 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." The Bible has a cleansing effect upon us as we read it. Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

We are born into the family of God by the word. I Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. We must preach the gospel if we expect people to be saved. We must tell them that Jesus died for them, was buried and the third day was raised again. What a treasure is ours in the Bible.

~ Charles Ellis

THINGS WHICH WE OBTAIN BY FAITH

(Continued from page 2)

are set apart for the Lord and unto the Lord by faith. Sanctification is not a certain progress made by ourselves in the spiritual life. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in setting us apart for the Lord.

Purification. Acts 15:9 "And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." We are all purified by faith. We are made whole by faith in the blood of the Lamb.

Occupation. Ephesians 3:17 "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being root-

ed and grounded in love." That Christ may feel at home in our hearts. We do not need to pray for him to come and dwell in our hearts if we are saved. We could pray that we would recognize his presence and know that he is present.

Progression. II Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight." We are saved by faith and we are to live by faith, and walk by faith. Most of us try to walk by sight. God calls upon us to walk by faith. Whatever God tells us in his word to do we should do it. We may not see how it is possible but we are to walk by faith. That means we trust the Lord.

Preservation. I Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." The same power that saves us keeps us saved. We are not kept by our own power but by the power of God. I am so glad that I don't have to keep myself saved. It is all by his mighty power. He died on the cross and paid for our sins. How many? He paid for all my sins and was buried and raised the third day for our justification. Do you know him as your Saviour? We have these things by faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

~ Charles Ellis

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Notice

The Northeast and North Central MS Baptist Bible Conferences do not have a meeting place for June 2009.

“Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken; Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:25-27).

“ . . . I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father; but by me” (John 14:6).

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