

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

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What is the Gospel? The word gospel means good news, glad tidings. There is good news about various things in the Bible, but our question is, What is the Gospel of the grace of God? We find the Holy Spirit's definition of the Gospel in 1 Cor. 15:3b-4, "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." There are numerous other statements in the Bible that have the essence of the Gospel, a part of it and the other implied, or gives in different words, such as "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. 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 3:14-16. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" 1 John 4:9-10. "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of

sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus" Rom. 3:25-26. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die" yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" Rom. 3:6-10. "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but the preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" 1 Cor. 1:17-18. "But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through

Jesus Christ our Savior; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" Titus 3:4-7. It will be a delightful and profitable study to go through the Bible, notice, and mark these statements that have the Gospel of the grace of God in them. What does God do for the sinner who believes the Gospel? God saves him, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" Rom. 1:16. God gives him eternal life. "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. God forgives his sins, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" Eph. 1:7. Makes him a new creature "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" Eph. 2:10. Justified him, "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness: Rom. 4:5. Believing the gospel makes a

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# ***THE BELIEVERS PAST AND PRESENT***

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*“dead in trespasses and sins - - - But God”*

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Ephesians 2:1-3, 11, 12 paint a picture of what the believer was before he came to believe Christ. It is a dreadful one. We were “Dead in trespasses and sins.” We “walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” We followed Satan without realizing it, for he is the spirit that is working in the unbeliever. We followed the dictates of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature the children of wrath.

In addition to all this we had no part in the covenant blessings promised to Israel; we had no hope and were without God in the world. This was our past and there is not a thing in which one could boast. We deserved nothing but eternal hell.

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of

the power of air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath even as others . . . Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the World” (Eph. 2:1-3, 11, 12).

Out of all this God saved us when we put our faith in Jesus Christ. Two of the sweetest and most comforting passages in all scripture are to be found right here, “But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath

quickened us (made us alive) together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)... But now, in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who hath made both one” (Eph. 2:4, 5, 13, 14).

But God! How lovely this is! When we were in that fearful condition described above, God saved us and we were made alive in Christ. By His grace alone He has raised us up and made us to sit in heavenlies in Christ. “And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6). This is our position now, and it is true because of the great price God paid for our redemption through His wonderful grace. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

*~ Jack Maroon*

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## ***WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?***

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sinner zealous of good works, “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Makes him love God and the children of God, “We love him, because he first loved us” 1 John 4:19. “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death” 1 John 3:14.

Believing the Gospel brings to the sinner this happy experience, “To open their eyes, and turn them

from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” Acts 26:18.

The Gospel will make believers careful to maintain good works, “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly

through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” Titus 3:4-8.

The ordinances: the Lord’s Supper and baptism give out to the world in acted symbol the Gospel of the grace of God.

*~ E. R. Henderson*

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# WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

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*“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us.” 1 John 3:1*

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How often do you stop to think what great things God has done for you and to give thanks to him in prayer, worship, Bible study, meditation and praise? In 1 John 3:1-4 the apostle John speaks of four things we can be thankful for as God’s children. First, he says we can be thankful for a settled past. He tells us to marvel at the love that God has already bestowed upon us in Christ Jesus. It is an undeserved love; we were sinners and deserved God’s wrath and judgment. It is an unreserved love; it resulted in a full forgiveness of our sins and provided the basis on which we could be called the children of God. God sent His only begotten Son to die for our sins, the just for the unjust, that He might clothe the believing sinner in Christ’s righteousness and make us one of His children with all the rights as adult children who are joint heirs with Christ. He loves us just like He loves His Son. Moreover, because Christ paid the penalty for our sins, no one can ever bring a charge against us that will stand. Our position is safe and secure in Christ. We have a settled past the moment we trust Christ for our salvation.

Second, we have a satisfied present. John says “Now are we the children of God” (3:2). We don’t have to wait until we get to heaven’s gate to find out if we are saved, we can enjoy the certainty of salvation now. We can know that nothing will ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:35-39). We can know that we are kept by the power of God until that day (Phil. 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5). Right now our desire can be to know Him more intimately, to walk with Him

more closely, to Serve Him more fervently, and to worship and praise Him more knowledgeably. We can enjoy Him now because we have a satisfied present.

Third, we have a secure future. John again writes “It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is” (3:2). There is coming a day when we are going to be confirmed in righteousness, our sanctification will be complete and perfect, and there will be no more sin, sickness, sorrow, separation or death in our lives. There is coming a day when we will have new bodies fitted for eternity and not subject to the limitations we have here; nor will they be subject to the maladies and humiliations we experience here. Though we see through a glass dimly now; we have only a

partial understanding of what our new bodies and lives will be like, we know like the Psalmist David when he wrote “I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness” (17:15) and “in thy presence is fullness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures ever more” (16:11). Yes, we as God’s children have a secure future.

Finally, we have a stimulating hope. What God has done for us moves us to want to serve him, follow him, and to know him more intimately. This is all of God’s grace too that He would cause us to walk in good works and desire to worship Him. John says “and every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (3:3). By God’s grace we are being changed day by day to be more like Christ. Truly this is a stimulating hope!

*~ Larry Windham*

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## STUDY TO LEARN THE TRUTH

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Sometimes we hear someone declare that he has studied the Bible for so long and demands recognition for his conclusions because of the long time spent in study. We would repeat what we have tried to say for many years: The amount of time spent in study of God’s Word means nothing unless we study it with an honest desire to learn the truth. If anyone approaches God’s Word with a desire to prove or to disprove anything, he will always be able to do so to his own satisfaction, but his eyes are wholly blinded to God’s truth. It is so easy for any of us to fall into the spirit of wanting to “prove” that what we think is

right, or of “disproving” what someone else with whom we disagree, has set forth. It is only when we come to God’s storehouse of truth in the attitude manifested by the Bereans (Acts 7:10, 11) that we shall be able to see the truth. These people searched God’s Word daily “whether those things were so.” There is no spirit here of wanting to prove or disprove, but simple to discover what the truth is.

May the Lord always find each of us studying His Word to find out what the truth is instead of trying to substantiate our own opinions or to refute what someone else teaches.

*~ A. M. Overton*

# Word of Life

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The Northeast MS Baptist  
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Church, Plantersville, MS on  
Friday, July 23, 2010.

- 7:00 p.m. - Welcome  
Prayer  
7:05 p.m. - Christ Duncan  
Alt. - Bobby Joe Poss  
7:30 p.m. - Gladwin  
Carpenter  
Alt. - John Gray  
7:55 p.m. - Fred Hartley  
Alt. - Larry Windham

Bro. Alton Elrod and the  
church invite you to this time  
of worship and Bible study.  
A meal will be served after  
the conference.

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