

The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 57

Tupelo, MS – July 2007

No. 7

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST?

I would like for us to examine from the scriptures the meaning of Pentecost. Also let us see what happened on that day many years ago as recorded in Acts chapter two.

The background of Pentecost goes back to Leviticus chapter twenty three. In this chapter the Bible records seven feasts that Israel was to observe. The first was the Passover observed on the fourteenth day of the first month. The second was the feast of unleavened bread on the fifteenth day of the same month. The next feast was the feast of firstfruits. As the Passover signified the death of Christ, the firstfruits shows His resurrection. After the feast of firstfruits, they were commanded to number fifty days and “offer a new meat-offering unto the Lord” (Lev. 23:16).

When we come to the book of Acts, Jesus has already been crucified, buried and raised from the grave. “For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7). Jesus showed Himself alive to His apostles and was seen of them forty days (see Acts 1:3). Then we note in Acts chapter one that Jesus was assembled together with the apostles and He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the coming of the Holy Ghost. Then Jesus ascended back to Heaven and the apostles went up into an upper room to await the promise. Evidently they waited ten days because the

word Pentecost means fifty days after. “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1). “Fully come” means the fifty days after the resurrection has come. There has been only one day of Pentecost and that was fifty days after Jesus arose. That is why there can never be another Pentecost. There can never be another fifty days after the resurrection of Christ. He died for sins once and that will never be repeated because Jesus made full payment for our sins on the cross that day. Jesus was buried and raised and Pentecost occurred fifty days after His resurrection and that can never be repeated.

One thing that happened on the day of Pentecost is that the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues or other languages. Were these tongues known or unknown tongues? The Bible says they heard them speak in their own tongues the wonderful works of God (see Acts 2:11). This chapter records that there were many language groups present (see vs. 9-11). The miracle was they heard and could understand in their own language.

Another thing that happened on the day of Pentecost was the great sermon that Peter preached. Peter told Israel in this sermon that Jesus was “delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of

God” and that He was “crucified and slain” but “God hath raised Him up” (Acts 2:23, 24). Peter preached the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

When Israel heard this message, they were pricked in their heart. They realized that it was through their wicked hands that Jesus was crucified. They asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, “what shall we do?” Peter told them to repent or have a change of mind and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for or because of the remission of their sins. Baptism is not in order to be saved but because one has been saved. This is explained to us in this same chapter a few verses later, where the Bible says: “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). These that were saved were added to the church already in existence. Jesus instituted His church during His earthly ministry and the apostles were the first members. When the day of Pentecost came the church had grown to one hundred twenty (see Acts 1:15). Then three thousand more were added on the day of Pentecost. So another thing that happened on Pentecost was the church was energized by the Holy Spirit.

- Gladwin Carpenter

THE WORD OF GOD

“God has spoken in his holiness” (Psalms 60:6). The Bible is the word of God. Therefore man should pay close attention to the Bible.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts;

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:19-21).

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” (1 Thes. 2:13).

These three passages of scripture teach us that the Bible is the word of God. The modernists teach that the Bible contains the words of God, thus intimating that the Bible also contains the words of man. That is satanic teaching and should be denounced, because the Bible, the whole Bible is the word of God.

God commands his people to study His Word.

First, for knowledge: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matt. 11:29).

“Search the scriptures” (John 5:39). “And that ye study to be quiet” (1 Thes. 4:11).

Second, for growth: “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies and envies, and all evil speakings,

“As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:1-2).

Here is an example of believers searching the scriptures.

“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

“Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few” (Acts 17:10-12).

“Search the scriptures” (John 5:39). “The Greek word here rendered search, signifies a strict, close diligent search, such as men make when they are seeking gold, or hunters when they are in earnest after game.

“We must not rest content with having given a superficial reading to a chapter or two, but with the candle of the Spirit we must deliberately seek out the hidden meaning of the word. Holy Scripture requires searching. Much of it can only be learned by careful study. No man who merely skims the Book of God can profit thereby. We must dig and mine until we obtain the hid treasure” (C.H. Spurgeon).

God’s people need the word of God.

For protection: “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:17).

For ability: “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

For faith: “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom 10:17).

For cleansing: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word” (Psalms 119:9).

For comfort: “This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me” (Psalms 119:50).

For guidance: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105).

If God’s people obey the Word of God they will be blessed.

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

“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:

“For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:21-25).

Martin Luther, standing before a

tribunal that would have dictated his course of conduct, said, "The word of God is not my word, I therefore cannot abandon it, but in all things short of that, I am ready to be docile and obedient. You may have my blood, my life, rather than a single word of retraction, for it is better to obey God than man. It is no fault of mine that this matter creates confusion among you. I cannot prevent the word of Christ becoming a stumbling block to man. I know well that we must pay obedience to the civil magistrate, even though he be not a man after God's own heart. And I am quite ready to pay obedience in any manner that does not shut out the word of God."

We do not agree with all of Martin Luther's interpretation of the scriptures but we do agree that it is better to obey God than to obey man.

Christ commissioned His people to teach the Word of God.

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

"And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of

the Holy Ghost:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28:16-20).

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

- Alfred Tripp

GOD IS FAITHFUL

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:24). In this passage before us we have the faithfulness of God. Man's faithfulness is not under consideration. We are not faithful. When the curtain of time has dropped before us and we depart to be with Christ, it could well be said of us all, I am an unprofitable servant. But not so with God. He is the faithful one. All men do and will fail, but not so with our heavenly Father.

Some seem to think God is wholly dependent on them to bring to pass his promises. But we find in Paul's letter to Timothy, 2:13 these words, "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful; he can not deny himself." Though we utterly fail, our failures do not render God's faithfulness void. God is oath bound to bring to pass all his promises. The accomplishment of God's promises rests entirely upon His faithfulness to bring his promises to pass. As a God of Truth, He abideth faithful. He can not deny Himself. Both sides of this truth are found in the Book of Genesis. In God's deal-

ings with Abraham which read, "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord: and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Gen. 15:5,6). Abraham had only to look to God to fulfill His promise. As far as reproduction was concerned, he and Sarah, his wife, were dead. But alas! so like preachers and "so called christian workers" of today, who try by fleshly means to bring God's promise to pass. We have the sordid act found in the 16th chapter of Genesis in the birth of Ishmael. The results of it was: there was a son born, a son of Abraham. But it was not the son of promise. So it turned out to be as the Word says in Gal 4:29, "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit. Even so it is now." Abraham had a desire to see the promise of God fulfilled. But his desire for the seed led him to hearken to his wife and resort to fleshly means to

bring it to pass. He seems to have forgotten that "God is faithful."

Why do men of today resort to fleshly means to reach the sinner after they have given the message of life, the good news of the Lord's death, burial and resurrection; pointing to the Lamb of God which beareth away the sin of the world, then they admonish lost people to do something. The reason is that they do not believe that "God is faithful," according to His promise to bring life out of death. Abraham learned after the birth of Ishmael that the bringing to pass of God's promise was of heavenly origin. Wholly apart from any means of the flesh. "Being fully persuaded that, what he had promised he was also able to perform" (Romans 4:21). What is this lesson for us today? This! When we preach the message of life, that we will leave the conception and fruit of it in heavenly hands where it belongs. Always remember that God is faithful and able to bring all his promises to pass. "God is Faithful!"

- James White

RADIO PROGRAMS

WCPC – HOUSTON, MS, 940 KC

SATURDAY, 8:30-9:00 A.M.
BRO. FRED HARTLEY

SUNDAY, 7:30-8:00 A.M.
BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

MON.-FRI. 4:55-5:00 P.M.
BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

SATURDAY, 9:15-9:45 A.M.
REEDY'S CHAPEL- BOBBY ADAMS

WBTG 106.3 FM – SHEFFIELD, AL

SUNDAY, 8:15 A.M.
BRO. JOE HOLMES

WOHT 92.3 FM – GRENADA, MS

MON.-FRI., 7:25 A.M.
DEVOTIONAL: LARRY WINDHAM
SUNDAY, 8:00-8:30 A.M.
ELLIOTT BAPTIST CHURCH

WBIP 99.3 FM – BOONEVILLE, MS

SUNDAY, 8:00 TO 8:30 A.M.
BRO. GLADWIN CARPENTER

*WEBSITE for "The Word
of Life Messenger"*

www.atCalvaryBaptist.net

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 will meet with Center Hill Baptist Church, Plantersville, MS on Friday Aug. 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Speakers are: (1) Chris Duncan, (2) James Bishop, & (3) Billy Thorn. Alternates: Bobby Adams, Gladwin Carpenter, & Bobby Poss. Welcome.

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Calvary Baptist Church, Vance Rd., Grenada, MS on Monday Aug. 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. There will be two speakers preaching from Romans ch. 1.

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Calvary Baptist Church, Vance Rd., Grenada, MS on Tuesday Aug. 21 at 9:55 a.m. Studies will be from Romans chs. 2-5. Welcome to these Bible conferences.

WORD OF LIFE MESSENGER

Published Monthly by the
Northeast Mississippi Baptist
Pastor's Conference, Inc.
Editors: Gladwin Carpenter, Larry Windham,
and Bobby Joe Poss

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Bobby Joe Poss
3151 Hwy. 43
Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657

T.V. PROGRAMS

TV WCVJ - Channel 13

Grenada, MS
Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
C.A. Fayard, Jr.

W39CD TV 39

Fulton, MS
Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.
Bro. Chris Duncan
Bro. Bobby Joe Poss
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
Bro. Lloyd Minor
Bro. David Jay
Bro. Robert Frederick (Singer)
WEBSITE: www.w39cd.com

First Baptist Church

Belmont, MS
Bro. Trent Jaudon
Channel 39
Fulton, MS
Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phil Campbell, AL 35581-4657
3151 Hwy. 43

Word of Life

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUPELO, MS
PERMIT #564