

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

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No. 5

## **CROWN HIM LORD OF ALL**

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalms 33:12)*

What makes a nation great? Some would say that it is its great army that is able to defend its borders, defeat its foes, and promote world peace in the world. Others would say it is its ability to diplomatically relate to other nations to accomplish its goals and maintain peace in the world. Still others might say that it is a dynamic global economy which is able to produce a steady stream of opportunities, new products and services, new jobs, and bountiful returns on investments. Others might think of a stimulating education system that challenges the intellect and ingenuity of its students and provides training to allow people to be productive members of society. Still others might think of a spirit of compassion among its citizens which provides for the needs of the sick, the disabled, the poor, the suffering, and the troubled. Again, others might think of its great political system that offers freedom of speech and worship, full citizen participation in the affairs of the nation, and personal protected rights and freedoms through a fair and equitable rule of law. While all of these are important and can help make a nation great, none of these provide the complete picture. A nation can have all of these things and still not escape the judging hand of God.

The Bible says that it is that nation's relationship to the Lord that makes that nation great. David wrote in Psalms 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the

LORD.” Moreover, the Bible says, “All nations who forget God shall be cast into Hell,” (Psalms 9:17). How does a nation forget God? How do we know that a nation's God is the LORD? A nation forgets God when they refuse to honor His Word. A nation does not honor His Word when they don't read it, heed it, or believe it. Paul said of the believers at Thessalonica, “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 works in you that believe,” (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Luke tells us, “Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it,” (Luke 11:28). Paul also said of the church at Thessalonica that “from you sounded out the word of the Lord,” (1 Thessalonians 1:8a). From these passages we can see, we are to receive God's word as the word of God. It is not a book of philosophy or opinion but it is the message of the living God who made heaven and earth and everything that is in it. The Bible is the word of the one who shall judge us all. Second, having read and heard the Word of God we are to believe it and obey it. We are to put it into practice in our daily lives. Third, having studied and digested His Word, having believed and obeyed the things found in God's word, we are to tell others the word of God holding back nothing that is profitable unto them. Whatever is needed, whether it be of redemption and

forgiveness of sin, or God's provision for our spiritual growth, our preservation, and our future glorification, we are to tell others. Are we honoring the Word of God by respecting it and giving it a prominent place in our lives? Are we regularly reading and mediating on the Word of God? Are we obeying the Word of God? Are we practicing what we have learned? Are we bringing God's Word into every aspect of our lives? Are we telling others the Word of God? These are questions which will clearly reveal whether we honor the Word of God.

Second, a nation forgets God when it does not honor God's Son. John 5:22-23 says, “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son; that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father who sent Him.” We honor the Father and the Son when we believe the gospel of God, the gospel of Christ, the gospel of grace. No, there are not multiple gospels, but one gospel which is of God. He is the source of the gospel for it is He who ordained it and sent it to us in the person of His dear Son. It is the gospel of Christ because it is He who died for our sins, the sinless for the sinful, the innocent in the place of the guilty, that He might redeem us to God and we might receive a full forgiveness of sins. It is the gospel of grace because we can do nothing to earn or merit this salvation. It is offered freely without money or price on  
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# THE COMMENDATION OF GOD'S LOVE

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“God commandeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,” (Rom. 5:8).

The world, and especially the religious world, teaches and preaches that if a person is good and does good, God loves him, and will finally save him if he keeps on being good and doing good. How different all this is from the plain teaching of the Word of God.

Hear the testimony from God's Word of truth. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins,” (1 John 4:10). Then again, “In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent His only begotten son into the world that we might live through Him,” (1 John 4:9). Those who teach or preach that one becomes a

child of God wholly, or in part, by what he does, or can, or must do, do not believe these plain statements of God concerning how sinners are saved (Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 1:15).

So my friend, if you are waiting to be good enough, or do enough good to get the Lord to save you, you will never be saved, because that is not God's way. Do not think that we are discrediting righteous living, we are not. You will never suffer for a sin you have not committed. So it will pay every one to live the very best life possible, but remember that the unbeliever is dead spiritually, and nothing he can do of himself can give him life. Only Jesus the Christ can do that for him. Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me,” (John 14:6). “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our

Lord,” (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus says, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life,” (John 6:47). “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life,” (1 John 5:12).

So it is, my friend, not a matter of how good one is. “There is none good, but one, that is God,” (Mark 10:18). It is not how much good one may do. “There is none that doeth good, no not one,” (Rom. 2:12). It is wholly of Christ and His finished work in taking our place, dying for our sins, being buried and rising the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

May those of us who know this blessed truth obey our Lord in telling it to others. For this is the greatest work that anyone can do.

- M. E. Wright

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## A MOMENT WITH THE WORD

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1 Corinthians 15:1-4 clearly defines the Gospel of Christ. “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all I also received, 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.”

Paul gives us several facts that need to be noticed.

The Corinthians had received it and they were standing in the Gospel.

Paul then gives to the elements of the gospel:

Christ died for our sins; nothing else is needed – the gospel is enough.

The gospel Paul preached was according to the Word of God. It was neither his message nor the message of man.

It was according to the scriptures (the Old Testament).

Christ was the scapegoat of the Day of Atonement taking our sins away.

On the third day He rose again. To verify this he names several witnesses: Cephas or Peter, the twelve (who were skeptical), of Paul also (no other greater enemy of our Lord), and then of above five hundred brethren, (the greater part were still living), then he was seen of Jesus.

Later, in this chapter, Paul lists the terrible consequences if Christ

is not risen.

Our preaching is vain (useless, empty).

Our faith is vain; we are not trusting a dead Saviour.

We are not in our sins. Christ paid for our sins and removed them as far as the East is from the West. Christ's resurrection is evidence that God accepted the payment of sin.

Our loved ones who have fallen asleep have perished.

Then God's people are the happiest people on earth. God has taken our sins away. We are going to Heaven to be with Him and our loved ones and not to Hell.

Dear friend, this promise is only for those who have trusted the finished work of Christ on the Cross. Is he your Saviour?

- Jack Maroon

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## CROWN HIM LORD OF ALL

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our part, without works of any kind. It is free to all who believe the gospel. Jesus said, "This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." Have you believed the gospel of, "how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures," (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)?

We also honor the Son, Jesus said, when we "search the Scriptures...for they are they which testify of me." No matter where we study in the Scriptures, we will find our Saviour pictured, prophesied, proclaimed, or present. We will find him pure, perfect, perceptive, and powerful. We will find him compassionate and caring. We will see Him as the Son of God and the Son of Man—fully God and fully man without sin and without limitations. We will see Him as the Divine revealer, the Divine redeemer, and the Divine restorer. We will see Him as Prophet, Priest, and King. We will see Him as our advocate, our intercessor, and our keeper. Words cannot fully describe the glory of the one who is revealed in Scripture to us. Like the writer of the Song of Solomon we will see Him as all together lovely. Are you searching the Scriptures to see Him?

We also honor the Son when we set our affections on things above and not on things on this earth (Col. 3:1-3). Do we spend more time with the television, sports, hunting, shopping, or entertaining ourselves than we spend with our Saviour? Likewise, we honor Him when He is our first love (Rev. 2:6), when He has the first place in our lives. We honor Him when we are sensitive about sin in our lives and are quick to confess it before Him. We honor Him when we walk in His steps so that others can see Jesus in us. Is sin in our lives keeping us from honoring Him? Can others see Jesus in us?

We honor Him when we worship Him for we are commanded "to forsake not the assembling of ourselves together" and John said the hosts of heaven fell down and worshipped Him proclaiming, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. We honor Him when we honor His Church for He is the head of the church and He receives glory in the Church. We honor Him when we bring our tithes and offerings into the storehouse that there will be resources for his work. We honor Him when we tell others the good news of His gospel. Are you regularly worshipping Him and supporting and working in His Church?

We honor Him when we honor

the Holy Spirit, for the Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and it is He who testifies of Jesus for Jesus said, "He shall glorify me." We honor Him when we grieve not the Holy Spirit by whom we are sealed until the day of redemption.

We honor the Son when we give Him the preeminence in our lives, when we rest in His finished work of redemption for us, when we trust Him for our every need, when we recognize that "without Him we can do nothing." We honor Him when we are thankful and grateful for every blessing He has bestowed upon us and recognize that His mercies are new and fresh every morning.

We honor Him when we live expectantly looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of Him who is our LORD, our every thing, the one who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Have we forgotten Him as a nation? Have you forgotten Him in your own life? How shameful to forget the one who has done so much for us! How shameful to forget the one who makes possible every good thing we enjoy—the One we could never honor enough. May the Lord grant us repentance and grace to never forget Him nationally or individually. Crown Him Lord of All.

- Larry Windham

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# Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Center Hill Baptist Church, Plantersville, MS on Friday, July 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Speakers are: Gladwin Carpenter, Bobby Adams and Chris Duncan.

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Calvary Baptist Church, Grenada, MS on Monday, August 18, 2008. Supper: 5:30 p.m. Preaching at 6:55 p.m. Preachers are Charles Blair and Gladwin Carpenter.

The North Central Baptist Bible Conference will also meet at Calvary on Tuesday, August 19, beginning at 10:55 a.m.

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Jonesboro Baptist Church, Waterloo Road, Russellville, AL on Friday, September 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Speakers are: Bobby Poss, Jeff Noblet, and Ralton McCarley.

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*Tuesday*, 9:30 p.m.

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*Wednesday*, 8:30 p.m.

Bro. Chris Duncan

Bro. Bobby Joe Poss

*Thursday*, 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Lloyd Minor

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