

The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 57

Tupelo, MS – August 2007

No. 8

SALVATION BY GRACE

“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” (Eph. 2:8, 9).

This message is sent forth with the prayer that God may use it to refute the Christ dishonoring, soul destroying doctrines of salvation by works. This is the most important matter that ever confronts the sinner—his salvation. On the one hand, Satan is trying to deceive and destroy the souls of men by leading them to depend on their own works for salvation. This is done, “By the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph. 4:14). While on the other hand, the Bible is exceedingly clear and plain about this matter.

God has never had, does not now have, and will never have but one way of saving sinners. As it is written in our text, Eph. 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.” Here God forever settles the question of what our salvation is, and how it is received. In these passages, God gives the positive and negative of salvation. The positive—what salvation is. The negative—what salvation is not. Let us first consider the negative of salvation.

1. Negative: “Not of yourselves, not of works, lest any man should

boast.” “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” (Titus 3:5-6).

“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” (Romans 1:16).

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which 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” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). In these passages, Paul says that the gospel he preaches is the gospel by which men are saved; and since the only work that is mentioned in these passages is the work of Christ in dying on the cross for our sins and His resurrection on the third day for our justification; Therefore all the works of men such as baptism, church membership, right living and all other bodily acts for (in order to) salvation are excluded. Since they are not mentioned in the gospel, that is proof that they are not part of the gospel and therefore are not essential to salvation. Again, Paul says, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel” (1 Cor. 1:17). This passage

proves conclusively that baptism is not part of the gospel, and since the gospel brings salvation to all who believe it, this proves that all who are ever saved, are saved before, and without baptism.

Again Paul says, “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let them be accursed” (Gal. 1:8). The above passages clearly show that the gospel, which saves, is not a gospel of works, but a gospel of grace: and those who add baptism, church-membership, and other works of men for salvation, do not preach the gospel, and therefore they have no Saviour, no salvation, and are under the curse of God. Baptism is a work of righteousness. “Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, ‘Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him” (Matt. 3:13-15). Thus, the Son of God says baptism is a righteous act. The scriptures say again in Titus 3:5, also in our text that we are not saved by works of righteousness, and thereby exclude baptism from the plan of salvation.

The Bible gives two outstanding
(Continued on page 2)

SALVATION BY GRACE

(Continued from page 1)

reasons why man cannot be saved by works.

A. ALL THE WORKS OF ALL MEN ARE EVIL UNTIL AFTER THEY ARE BORN AGAIN.

“There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one” (Rom. 3:10-12). In these passages, God proves that the works of men are evil. Since this is true, there is no hope for the sinner under the law. “For as many as are of the works of the law under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law to do them” (Gal. 3:10).

B. NO MAN EVER DOES ENOUGH TO SAVE HIM.

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). “Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20). “For if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law” (Gal. 3:21).

These passages prove the hopelessness of any man under the law, for all have broken the law and are criminals and fugitives from God and must look to some other source if ever saved. This being true we shall now turn to the positive side of salvation.

2. Positive. God says, salvation is a gift of God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This salvation is wholly the work of God. He provides and gives, and man receives salvation. This salvation was wrought out on Calvary and is

revealed in the gospel. “For I delivered unto you first of all that which 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” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). In this passage, God lays the axe at the root of the soul-destroying doctrines of salvation by works, by showing that all the works that was necessary for man’s salvation Jesus did, and we are made righteous by believing in Him. “But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference” (Rom. 3:21-22).

“For as by one man’s (Adam’s) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous” (Rom. 5:19). In this passage, God says that the obedience by which men are saved is the obedience of Christ, and not ours. Again, He says, “Now to him that worketh in the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness” (Rom. 4:4-5). Here, God says if salvation was by works it would not be a gift, but God would only be paying His debts.

Jesus in His explanation of the new birth said, “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). Just as the serpent

was uplifted in the wilderness as the only remedy for the bite of the serpent, and all who looked to the uplifted serpent received physical healing. Even so must Jesus die on the cross as the only remedy for sin, and all who believe in Him receive eternal life. Again Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). “To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43). “Verily, verily, I say unto you He that believeth on me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47).

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” (1 John 5:1). “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31). “For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26). “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace” (Rom. 4:16). “And if by grace then it is no more of works, otherwise grace is no more grace; But if it be of works, then it is no more grace; otherwise work is no more work. But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through His name” (John 21:31).

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:5). “And by him all that believeth are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:39). Sinner, believe on Him and be saved.

- L.W. Carlin

MESSAGES OF TRUTH

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God” (1 John 3:2a). By “Beloved” he limits those addressed to believers, as shown in 5:1, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God.” Some think every human being is a child of God, and talk about the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The scriptures teach us that all were children of wrath by nature (Eph. 2:3b). There were some in Jesus’ time who were the children of the devil. These were very religious people, but they were bitter murderous enemies of Jesus. These must have become such by belief of the lie, their false Satan-inspired notion about Jesus. There are such in the world today. All are or were the children of wrath by nature. Some are the children of the devil by Satanic opposition to Jesus, some are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. How wonderful and gracious to be addressed “Beloved, now are we the sons (children) of God.” Are you in this class? Something to think about, isn’t it? What privileges this holy and gracious relationship gives us. But we are not to forget the tremendous responsibilities it involves. The

blessedness of this holy relationship projects itself into the future. “We shall be like him for we shall see him as he is.”

Don’t be satisfied with anything but the best. This is good counsel in general. There is no good, better and best in salvation. It is just salvation, sure and certain. It is God’s gracious provision to save us from the hell we deserve, by visiting that curse on his only Begotten Son. That is the meaning of the cross. This is God’s best, nothing else or less could save a sinner. Nothing less can satisfy the guilty conscience. Nothing more is needed. Since God has done his best, has given his best, has secured to us the best, sure we should not be satisfied with anything less than our best in love, consecration, devotion and service to Him. Since He has given His best, we should give our best. This is the appeal in the scriptures. 2 Cor. 8:9, Rom. 12:1. Those who have done this have counted for most in serving God and blessing the world. Many have suffered a martyr’s death because of it, but we call them blessed, and Jesus will say to them “Well done, thou faithful servant.”

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 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 for ever and ever. Amen.”

You hand a man a beautiful rose, unknown to you he is a botanist. He begins to pluck the petals. You protest, “Don’t do that just look at it, don’t tear it up, don’t analyze, just look at it.” That is the way I feel about this passage of scripture. Don’t try to analyze, just look at it. Behold its glorious, gracious, heavenly beauty. “The God of peace,” let that thrill your soul. Behold the glory of His deed., “Brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus...through the blood of the everlasting covenant.” Entrance your inmost being with “Our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep.” May the possibility of being made fit to do his will challenge us to “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”

- E.R. Henderson

THE WORD OF GOD

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer

you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, and pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s charter.

Here paradise is restored, Heaven opened and hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design and the glory of God its end. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. Let it fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. It is a

mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgement, and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the highest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

- Author Unknown

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 North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Broadway Baptist Church, 3215 Huntsville Road, Florence, AL on Tues. Sept. 25, 2007 (Tues. after the 4th Sunday). The conference will begin at 9:50 a.m. and conclude at 2:10 p.m. Programs will be mailed later.

Bro. Ralton McCarley and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible Study.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4, 5).

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

