

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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SAINTS IN EPHESIANS

Paul addresses the saints at Ephesus in Ephesians 1:1. A saint is one who has been set apart to God, one who has been saved by the grace of God, one who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. I would like for us to see some of the descriptions of God’s saints in Ephesians.

First, may we consider the salvation of the saint in this book. One must be saved to become a saint. This takes place through the redemptive work of Christ. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace,” (Eph. 1:7). “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). We are forgiven through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. When He died on the cross, He paid the full penalty of our sins by the shedding of His precious blood. He was buried for three days and nights and God raised Him from the grave. When the lost sinner believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who did this for him, the sinner passes from death unto life and becomes one of God’s saints.

Next, we see the sealing of the saint in Ephesians. When we become a saint, God seals us with the Holy Spirit. “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word

of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory,” (Eph. 1:13-14). These are wonderful truths describing what the Lord does for a believing sinner. We are sealed unto the day of the redemption of our bodies (Eph. 4:30).

The seating of the saint is another great truth in Ephesians. “And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” (Eph. 2:6). The term “raised us up” means we have been “quickened” or made alive with Christ (see Eph. 2:1,5). We were dead in trespasses and sins but now we are alive in Christ and our position is seated with Him.

Also, we notice the spiritual strength of the saint in Ephesians. “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man,” (Eph. 3:16). “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might,” (Eph. 6:10). As we see in verse sixteen, we are strengthened in the inner man. The inner man is that part of the believer that is born again. The outer man is the fleshly man but the inner man

is the spiritual nature that comprehends spiritual truths. This is where our spiritual strength and growth is.

The song of the saint is described for us in Ephesians 5:19: “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” As we see here the songs of the saints should be hymns that are spiritual. They must be songs that cause us to rejoice in the inner man and not in the flesh. Spiritual songs give honor and glory to the Lord. The song of the saints are to remind us of the blood and the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (see Rev. 5:9).

Now we look at the subjection of the saints. The book of Ephesians teaches us that the saints in the church are subject unto Christ. “Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing,” (Eph. 5:24). The local New Testament church is a wonderful doctrine in Ephesians. The church is a local body of baptized believers. Jesus is the head of each local New Testament Baptist church. Therefore the church is subject unto Christ (see Eph. 5:23-24).

The sanctification of the saint is also revealed to us in the book of Ephesians. As children of God, we should serve the Lord in the church and the believers in the church are

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SUFFICIENT GRACE

“My grace is sufficient for thee” (1 Corinthians 12:9)

The Christian life is a life of grace. We are saved by grace, kept by grace, sustained by grace, and nourished by grace. If God gave us what we deserved, none of us would be saved. But God, out of the riches of his grace in Christ, has redeemed us through the blood of His own, dear Son, and has forgiven us all of our sins (Eph. 1:7). We are also kept by the power of God and preserved unto His eternal kingdom. Not one of His sheep will ever be lost; not one of those who have believed the gospel of Christ will ever be forsaken! Moreover, we are strengthened and sustained in all our trials and tribulations by His all sufficient grace.

If none of God’s redeemed were tried or tempted, we would know little of God’s comforting and sustaining grace. God’s grace is often magnified and manifested more fully in the difficulties and trials of believers. When we see people who are in trying circumstances, suffer-

ing grievous losses or heartaches, still praying to God, praising God, and having faith in God what honor it brings to our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, what a testimony it brings of the power of the gospel of Christ and the power of divine grace. We may be weak, poverty stricken, hurting, or struggling. But HIS grace is sufficient for us.

The redeemed bear up under every discouragement, believing the promise of God that all things work together for good to those that love the Lord who are the called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28). They believe that out of every discouragement, out of every evil, out of every apparent defeat God will prevail and His grace will be sufficient for us. They believe He will arise with healing in His wings and either He will deliver them speedily or fully support them in their trouble.

We may be in the middle of a mighty storm, surrounded by raging

winds, but the anchor holds. The enemy may be mounting a fierce attack, but the keeper of our soul and our lives neither slumbers nor sleeps. His right hand of grace will keep us and sustain us. The grace needed for one believer does not exhaust His supply. He has an infinite supply of grace and nothing can exhaust His supply. He has more than enough grace for you and for every believer right now, and for every generation to come.

He who would glorify his God must expect to meet with many trials and tribulations in this life. No person can be strong and courageous before the Lord unless his conflicts be many. As for His failing you, never think it—hate the very thought of it. The God who was sufficient for your salvation, has been sufficient for your needs until now, can be trusted to the end. HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT.

~Larry Windham

SAINTS IN EPHESIANS

(Continued from Page 1)

set apart more and more unto the Lord. “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,” (Eph. 5:26). The word of God has a cleansing effect on the child of God as we hear the word preached in the church. Jesus taught this truth in His prayer of intercession. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth,” (John 17:17).

The service of the saint is also taught in Ephesians. As born again believers, the saints of God are to serve Him. This is not to be saved

or to help us stay saved but rather because we are saved. “With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,” (Eph. 6:7). We are saved by grace through faith without works. After we are saved, “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).

Finally we notice the stand of the saints in the book of Ephesians. “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against

the wiles of the devil,” (Eph. 6:11). “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness,” (Eph. 6:14). “Having your loins girt about with truth” is the only way to stand true to the Lord. God’s truth, which is His Divine revelation, is a must if the child of God is to stand for the Lord. In this day of falling away, we need to take our stand and stay true to God.

~Gladwin Carpenter

BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED

Religion sets forth a way that sinners can be saved. This way is deceiving and misleading when examined in the light of God's Word. The devil offers his way of salvation, which is by works, and you know that he is a liar. The Bible declares God's way of salvation, "the only way," and it is by grace. It is my purpose in this message to set forth three things about the SALVATION of sinners.

First, let's identify sinners. The opinion of humanity today is, that not everyone is a sinner. If you listen to religion, you soon get the idea that man is not so bad after all. My friend, please do not listen to the devil or your soul will be damned and doomed.

This is what the Word of God sets forth concerning sinners. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23). I ask you to read this verse again. ALL have sinned, that is all are sinners. "There is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good and sinneth not," (Ecc. 7:20). Adam fell in his transgression, and so all men since

Adam came into this world sinners. We are the offspring of Adam and have his nature. This nature is the nature of sin. No one upon the earth can truthfully say he is not a sinner. In fact, there are only two classes of people on the earth, namely lost sinners and saved sinners.

Second, let's identify the Saviour. The devil and man would have you believe that man is his own saviour. This is nothing but the devil's lie. Religion would have you believe the same lie, but I plead with you not to believe such a lie. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else," (Isa. 45:22). The mission of Christ stated in Luke 19:10 tells us that He is the Saviour. "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." This is set forth in Luke 15 by the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. The very name of Jesus tells us that He, God's Son, is the Lord and Saviour. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins," (Matt. 1:21). Any other sav-

our is excluded. Acts 4:12 states, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Third, let's see how the Lord saves sinners. There is no prayer that man can pray that will save him. There are no good works that we can perform that will save us. A person is not saved by doing the best he can. Religious identification, or being a member of a certain church, will not save anyone. There is no power to save in water baptism or to help save a sinner. A person is saved by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins on the cross of Calvary. Christ paid the sin debt through His sacrificial death and shedding of His precious blood according to the Scriptures, He was buried and raised again according to the Scriptures. God imputes to a believing sinner the righteousness of His Son. God will save any person who believes in Jesus Christ for salvation.

~ Billy Little

NOW WE KNOW

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19). Here we see the now of the sinner's guilt. This verse reads "now we know." From God's word we know that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

We also know that God provides righteousness in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ to

those who believe 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). When the lost sinner believes in the death of Jesus Christ and His shed blood at the cross of Calvary and His burial and resurrection from the grave, God imputes righteousness to the

believing sinner and the sinner is saved by God's grace.

The Bible also reveals to us in the book of Romans, that since we have been delivered, we should serve the Lord, not to be saved but because we are saved. We serve the Lord because of love and obedience to Him. "But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held: that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter" (Rom. 7:6). ~ Gladwin Carpenter

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

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist
Bible Conference will meet
with New Parkersburg Baptist
Church, Hwy. 15 north of
Houston, MS on Friday, Octo-
ber 10, 2008.

7:00 p.m. - Fred Hartley

Alt. - Gladwin Carpenter

7:25 p.m. - Larry Windham

Alt. - Chris Duncan

7:55 p.m. Billy Thorn

Alt. - Bobby Poss

Bro. Sammy Hardin, pastor
invites you to this time of
Bible study. (Refreshments)

The Northeast MS Baptist
Bible Conference will meet
with Reedy's Chapel Baptist
Church near Derma, MS on
Monday night, Nov. 17, 2008.

6:55 p.m. - Welcome, Hymn

7:00 p.m. - John Gray

Alt. - Fred Hartley

7:30 p.m. - Larry Windham

Alt. - Chris Duncan

8:00 p.m. Cecil Fayard

Alt. - Robert Alexander

8:25 p.m. Report, offering

Refreshments: Welcome.

North Central Conference

Tuesday, Nov. 18: 9:55 a.m.

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T.V. PROGRAMS

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Grenada, MS

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

C.A. Fayard, Jr.

TV W39CD - Channel 39

Fulton, MS

Website: www.w39cd.com

Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Belmont, MS

Bro. Trent Jaudon

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.

Bro. Chris Duncan

Bro. Bobby Joe Poss

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Lloyd Minor

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