

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM

“Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars” (Proverbs 9:12). This verse was written by Solomon, a man who had received wisdom from the Lord. As I think of pillars of wisdom in the Old Testament, I am reminded of seven great pillars of wisdom in the New Testament.

Pillar one, Jesus is the chief corner stone. Jesus is wisdom personified. The queen of the south came to hear the wisdom of Solomon “and behold, a greater than Solomon is here” (Matt. 12:42). As a young child, Jesus was “filled with wisdom” (Luke 2:40). The Ephesian letter reminds us that we “are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Eph. 2:20). The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in the Lord (see Col. 2:3). “For this man (Jesus) was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house” (Heb. 3:3).

Pillar two, the New Testament church was built upon the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18). “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house...” (I Peter 2:4-5a). The church is also described as a pillar in God’s word. “But if I tarry long, that thou may know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the

house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15).

Pillar three is the word of God which is able to build you up. “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). “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom” (Col. 3:16a). The words “build” and “wisdom” are associated with the word of God.

Pillar four is the great doctrine of redemption by the blood of Christ. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence” (Eph. 1:7-8). “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (I Cor. 3:11). “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it please God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (I Cor. 1:21). Notice “foundation” and “wisdom” are used in relation to redemption. To save the believing sinner, Jesus died and shed His blood for the remission of our sins. He was buried but rose from the grave.

We would like to consider the spiritual knowledge of the child of God as pillar five. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10). “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory

may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Eph. 1:17). Paul’s desire for the Colossians was that they “might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Col. 1:9b). A great foundation pillar for the child of God is to have wisdom and a greater knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pillar six is the child of God building on the foundation. Jesus is the foundation (see I Cor. 3:11). Paul describes the child of God as we build upon the foundation in I Cor. 3:12-15. “But ye, beloved, building up your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost” (Jude 20). These verses are descriptions of the child of God as we serve Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

I would like for us to think of pillar seven as our eternal home with God in Heaven. “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (II Cor. 5:1). Abraham “looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). Revelation twenty one describes heaven as a city where the wall has twelve foundations (see Rev. 21:14).

Yes, “wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars.” Oh, how we as God’s children should rejoice in these great pillars of the faith.

~Gladwin Carpenter

FOUR WONDERFUL WORDS

“Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8)

Here is a most wonderful sentence of four words. The first two words state an historical fact: “Christ died.” The second two add significance: “for us.” Could a more profound sentence ever have been written?

Think of the fact that He died. How could the Son of God ever die? He had to become human to be capable of dying. The infinite one had to become an infant. It is a mystery of grace that the Son of God could die; still more that He should die; still more that He would die; and marvel of marvels that He did die.

Think again of the place where He died. He died at Calvary where many a crime-stained felon had been torturously crucified, with foul language and wild cries of blasphemous oaths pouring from their lips. Here was the spotless Son of God in such an ungodly place.

Think of Him there!

Think of the death that He died. He was crucified—the most lingering and excruciating of all legally inflicted deaths. Around him the crowd mocked Him saying, “He saved others, Himself he cannot save.” Already He had the beard plucked from His face, been spit upon and stripped of His robe, had a crown of thorns thrust upon His head, been nailed to a wooden cross, and lifted up above the earth. What a humiliating and painful way to die.

Think of those with whom He died. It was not between two noble men, but two thieves, two foul-mouthed murderers who mocked Him as if He were worse than they.

Think of the way He died. Although He had committed no crime. He had been unjustly condemned, brutally mocked and beaten, and nailed to a cross to suffer in agony. His first cry from the cross

was, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Even one of the thieves on the cross acknowledged Him as Lord, and heard, “Today shall thou be with me in paradise.”

Think of the significance of His death. “He died for us.” “He was delivered for our offenses.” He died the innocent one in the place of the guilty ones. Somehow, he bore both my punishment and my guilt. All my sin and punishment was placed on Him. It pleased the Lord to bruise Him, to make His soul an offering for sin (Is. 53:10).

Little can I understand the love and grace that caused the Father to give us His only Son that I might live or that the dear Son of God would willingly die for me! Now because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, I can stand before God, justified, just as if I have never sinned. What Grace!

~Larry Windham

IT PLEASED GOD...

1. To bruise His son. “Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him...” (Isaiah 53:10). God loves sinners. He loved us so much that He gave His Son as an offering for sin.

2. To make all fulness dwell in Him. “For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell” (Col. 1:19). In the verses before this, God reveals that we have redemption through His blood. He is now the head of the New Testament church. He is the firstborn from the dead. No wonder it pleases God for Him to have all fulness dwell in Him.

3. To save all who believe in Him. “For after that in the wisdom

of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (I Cor. 1:21).

4. To reveal His son through saved people. “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by His grace to reveal His Son in me, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood” (Gal. 1:15-16).

5. To make us His people. “For the Lord will not forsake His people for His great name’s sake, because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people” (I Samuel 12:22). When we come to be the people of God by believing in the

shed blood of Christ on the cross, where He died for our sins and was buried and raised again, it pleases God, and then He will not forsake us.

6. To make us one in Christ. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28).

7. To give us a resurrection body. “But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body” (I Cor. 15:38).

~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” (II 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” (I 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” (I Thes. 4:11).

Second, for growth: “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies and envies, all evil speakings, as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I 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.

~Alfred Tripp

A WITNESS

If you were summoned to court as a witness, you would be asked to state your name, then you would be sworn “to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” Every witness that is accepted must be: an eye witness, an ear witness or one who has circumstantial evidence as to the guilt or innocence of the client. A good witness to Christ must be one who is sure of their salvation. If in court a man was asked to state his name, and he should reply, I am not sure that is my name, he casts a reflection on the character of his mother. Anyone who is in doubt about their salvation cannot make a

good witness to Christ. If you are not sure of what you may, or may not have, who would be willing to try a thing that you are not sure about? People who profess to be Christians and they say, “I doubt my salvation,” have one of two things wrong with them: (1) They may not have been saved, (2) If they have been saved, the evidence is they do not believe the word of the Saviour.

“He that believeth on me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47). Also I John 5:9-13 gives all the evidence one would ever need to be sure that the believer has eternal life. I doubt a lot of things I do, but I do not doubt that

I am saved. My salvation and yours is based on what Christ suffered for us on the cross and that He is alive forevermore. Don’t you want to be a good witness? Then have a know-so testimony based on the Word of God. Did Paul ever leave a hint in any place that he sometimes doubted his salvation? Never one time did he leave such an impression. If we are to be good witnesses to Christ, we are not to “give an uncertain sound” (I Cor. 12:8). If one is saved, God wants them to know-so. (I John 3:14; II Tim. 1:12).

~B. A. Wilson

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with New Parkersburg Baptist Church on Friday, October 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The church is located just north of Houston, MS on Hwy. 15. The program is as follows:

7:00 p.m. - Welcome, song,
prayer

7:05 p.m. - Gladwin Carpenter
Alt. - Billy Little

7:30 p.m. - Fred Hartley
Alt. - John Gray

7:55 p.m. - Bobby Joe Poss
Alt. - Chris Duncan

Bro. Sammy Hardin, pastor, and the church invite you to this time of worship and Bible study. A meal will be served after the conference.

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..." (II Cor. 5:18a).

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Bro. Chris Duncan

Bro. Bobby Joe Poss

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Bro. Lloyd Minor