

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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GOD’S PEOPLE IDENTIFIED

God’s people are identified several ways in the Bible. In this article, we would like to see some of the ways God identifies us as sons or children.

First, we notice that God leads His children by His Holy Spirit that dwells within them. The Holy Spirit comes to indwell us the moment we are saved. “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14). God demonstrated His great love toward us in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ in order for us to be called sons of God. “Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not” (I John 3:1). In God’s demonstration of His great love He gave His son Jesus to die for us and shed His blood to remove the penalty of sin. He was buried, but He arose from the grave and God has guaranteed the sin penalty is removed from all who believe in Him, because He ever lives to make intercession for us.

Another great privilege of being a child of God is the fact that God adopts us or places us as a son. We are born into God’s family when we believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. This new birth gives us a position in God’s family as children. As born children, God adopts us and gives us all the privileges of a child. We now have approach to Him

in prayer. When God saves us, He takes up the responsibility of caring for us and keeping us safe. God has predestinated our adoption. “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved” (Eph. 1:5-6). Therefore we are “accepted in the beloved” or in the Lord Jesus Christ. All of this takes place because “we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph. 1:7).

One of the great blessings of being a child of God and in being adopted is the fact that we are heirs of God. “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Rom. 8:17). This means that we have the riches of God and all heavenly blessings in Christ Jesus. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

As sons or children of God, the Bible teaches that all of our sins are forgiven. “I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake” (I John 2:12). The word “sins” in this verse is plural, meaning that not some of our sins were paid for at Calvary, but

every one of them. The book of Colossians, as well as many other scriptures, makes this clear. “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you ALL trespasses; Blotting out the hand writing of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Col. 2:13-14). If Jesus did not die for all of our sins, then there would still be a charge against us, and we would still be lost. I am thankful that Jesus paid the full penalty for all of our sins on the cross and that He was buried (which shows all of our sins are gone) and He rose from the grave. There are many verses in the Bible that prove this. May we notice just a few: “Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered” (Rom. 4:7). In the gospel, as recorded in I Cor. 15:3-4, notice that “Christ died for our SINS” and was buried and rose again. “Who gave himself for our SINS...” (Gal. 1:4). “So Christ was once offered to bear the SINS of many...” (Heb. 9:28). “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for SINS for ever, sat down on the right hand of God” (Heb. 10:12). “Who his own self bare our SINS in his own body on the tree...” (I Peter 2:24). Do you believe that Jesus died for ALL of your sins and that He is alive? If so, you are saved.

~Gladwin Carpenter

THE BEST NEWS IN THE WORLD

“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” (I Cor. 15:3-4)

The best news the world ever heard is not considered of great news value by most men. It is not about something that happened just yesterday, but it is of supreme importance and is of as immediate concern to us as if it had just been announced in the latest news flash.

This “Good News” is the Gospel of Christ. The word Gospel means good news, and its story is the best news any one ever received.

All the world, and that includes every one of us, is “under sin” (Rom. 3:9), “guilty before God” (Rom. 3:19), “under the curse” (Gal. 3:10), and “without excuse” (Rom. 1:20). By nature we are “the children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3), “without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). We are “dead in trespasses and sin” (Eph. 2:3), “and cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8).

The Gospel of Christ declares unto us, “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” (I Cor. 15:3-4). And “the gospel of Christ is the power of God into salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16).

I. About Whom Is This Good News?

It is about Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Mary, the Son of God, Who was and is the Christ (the sent one from the Father, the promised Messiah and redeemer) (Matt. 16:16; John 4:25-26; John 20:31). He was and is the Creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-

17). He is Master over all substance (John 2:1-11; 6:1-13), Healer of the sick and afflicted (Mark 1:30-31; 3:5; John 9:1-7; etc.), Master of the elements (Mark 4:35-41), and the Raiser of the dead (Luke 7:11-16; 8:51-56; John 11:38-44).

II. What Did He Do?

He was born of the Virgin Mary (Matt. 1:22-23), was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. He had no sin inwardly or outwardly (Heb. 4:15). He always did the will of his Father. Yet, he suffered many things of sinful men (Luke 22:63-65; Acts 3:18; Heb. 13:12), was forsaken of God (Matt. 27:46) died (Matt. 27:57-60; etc.), and rose the third day (Matt. 28:5-6).

III. Why Did He Do This?

“He died for our sins.” He “gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world” (Gal. 1:4), and that He “might redeem us from all iniquity” (Titus 2:14). He took our place as a sin-offering that He might meet every requirement of God’s law, and thus provide a just ground upon which God could be just, and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus (Rom. 3:26). Because of our sins we were under the curse of condemnation (Gal. 3:10) and He took our place under the curse to redeem us from it (Gal. 3:13).

IV. How Did He Die?

He died the Just for the unjust (I Peter 3:18). He died to provide us an acceptable covering before God just as the innocent animal died to furnish skins for Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:12). He died as our Substitute as the ram died for Isaac, condemned to die, that he might go free (Gen. 22:6-14). He died as our Passover Lamb (I Cor. 5:7), to pro-

vide safety behind His blood as the Passover lamb did for the doomed first-born of Israel (Ex. 12:18-29).

V. Why Was He Buried and Raised From the Dead?

He was buried to clearly demonstrate that He had died. The wages of sins is death. Although He had no sin of His own, He was dying as our substitute bearing our sin. He was buried to symbolize the putting away of our sin. Just as the scapegoat had the sins of the people confessed over Him and was carried out in the wilderness never to be seen again (Leviticus 16), so Christ bore our sins away, never to be seen again. He was raised again as the evidence that His sacrifice for sin had been fully accepted by the Father. Paul wrote “He was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification (Rom. 4:25). It was impossible that death would hold the spotless Son of God.

Yes, we are all sinners, guilty and condemned. But God tells us “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.”

“Verily, verily, I say unto you He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47). Have you believed the gospel of Christ? Have you believed on Jesus? What must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved (Acts 16:31). Truly this is the best news in the world.

~Larry Windham

*Adapted from a tract by this name
with no author*

WALKING IN THE TRUTH

“I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in the truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father,” (II John 1:4). There is no doubt in my mind about the joy that the child of God gets from the actual experience he has in obedience to the Lord.

Let us notice what the Lord says in His Word about “truth.” In the High Priestly prayer of our Saviour, Jesus said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth” (John 17:17). To be “sanctified” means to be set apart. The writer of Hebrews says that this has been done when we believe what Jesus has done for us. There is a sense of being set apart as we are obedient to His Word. Let us see first of all who are children of God. “But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13). “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him” (I John 5:1). “Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26). We are persuaded that no one can believe

that Jesus is the Christ without being a son. To believe that Jesus died with your sins on his body on the cross of the tree, and was raised again the third day according to the Scriptures gives one eternal life, and sonship.

In walking in the truth while on this earth there are some things we should be aware of. Note some of them, and what we should do about it.

1. Try Them - “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I John 4:1).

2. Mark Them - “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned: and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).

3. Rebuke Them - “This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith” (Titus 1:13).

4. Have No Fellowship - “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

5. Receive Them Not - “If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God Speed” (II John 10).

We learn from a study of the first five books of Moses that God gave the instruction for deliverance of Israel. Moses was to follow the instructions that the Lord gave. Notice the number of times Moses says, “Thus the Lord speaks.” Let us take one quotation from the writings to show what we are teaching, “For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.” We see they could have made the journey in eleven days but it took them forty years and many of those who started failed to enter. Even the servant Moses was permitted to look over but not enter because of disobedience. “Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan” (Deut. 3:27). May God help us to heed His Word and Walk in the truth. Not only will joy be manifest in this life but in the day of rewards we will joy.

~Cooper Hartley

FREE FROM GOD’S WRATH

Had it occurred to you what wonderful things a believer can say? “I am free from the wrath of God.” He can say this because he believes Galatians 3:13. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse, being made a curse for us, for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” And John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.” Someone may say, “I cannot say that I am free from God’s wrath.” You cannot say it because you are not a believer. It is the believer who

can say, “I am free from the wrath of God.” To be free from the wrath of God who is just and righteous Judge of the universe, does not mean the believer is always free from the displeasure of God who is his heavenly Father. “Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26).

Moses was under the displeasure of God when he smote the rock instead of speaking to it as God told him. David was under God’s displeasure when he committed his great multiple sin. “But the thing that David did displeased the Lord” (II Sam. 11:27b). David in his

prayer of confession said, “Restore unto me the joy (not salvation) of thy salvation” (Psalm 51:12a). It is a glorious and gracious fact that the believer’s sins, however great, do not bring him under God’s wrath, but do bring him under the Father’s displeasure. Paul sensed this when he said, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I should be a castaway, disapproved” (I Cor. 9:27).

~E.R. Henderson

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist
Bible Conference will meet
with Reedy's Chapel Baptist
Church, Derma, MS on Mon-
day night, Nov. 16, 2009.

7:00 p.m. - Welcome, etc.

7:05 p.m. - Fred Hartley

7:30 p.m. - Song

7:35 p.m. - Robert Alexander

8:00 p.m. - Song

8:05 p.m. - Bobby Poss

Meal after last speaker.

The North Central MS Bap-
tist Bible Conference will meet
with Reedy's Chapel Baptist
Church on Tuesday, Nov. 17,
2009 at 9:50 a.m.

Alternates will be chosen
from the floor. Bro. Chris Dun-
can and the church invite you.

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