

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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LIFE

The Bible has much to say concerning the life of the child of God. Only in Christ our Saviour can one have life from above. Life in the physical realm is received in the birth from our parents but the life of God is received when the lost sinner believes in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried and raised again. I would like to ask three questions concerning life and give the answer from the word of God.

First, who is your life? This question is answered in Colossians 3:4, “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” God promised life in Christ before the world began. “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2). The promise of life is in Christ Jesus. “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:1). Since Christ is our life, the believer in Christ has God’s life abiding within. In order for us to have this life, Jesus had to give His life for us. “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (John 10:10b, 11). “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” (John 3:36). “Verily, verily I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24). Do you believe that Jesus, through His redemptive work on the cross of Calvary, paid your sin debt and that He was buried and raised from the grave? If so, Christ is your life.

Second, I would like to ask, where is your life? It is hid with Christ in God. “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). Oh, what a safe refuge the child of God has in Christ: “hid with Christ in God.” We are safe in His hand. “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one” (John 10:28-30). Is your life safe and secure, resting in the finished work of Christ?

Third, what is your life? It is a vapour. “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a

vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14). James is not speaking here of our eternal life which is in Christ Jesus, but rather of our physical life. Eternal life lasts forever, but physical life is but a vapour. The child of God has both physical and spiritual life. The Bible teaches us that while we live here on this earth, we are not to be over anxious in the things concerning our temporary life. “Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; not yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” (Matt. 6:25). He also teaches us that we are to lose our life for Jesus’ sake in His will and in His service. “He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matt. 10:39). What should our life consist of? Jesus said, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). Our life should be spent in fellowship with the Lord for “truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). Paul counted “all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ” (Phil. 3:8).

— Gladwin Carpenter

WHAT CHRIST WAS MADE

(Continued from October)

Second, as to his work He was made six things for us.

A. He was made a curse (Galatians 3:13). Paul writes in Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." Think of the marvel of this verse. Jesus, the Eternal Son of the Eternal Father, the inhabitator of eternity, was "made a curse for us." Jesus, the Teacher from God, was "made a curse for us." Jesus the Pre-eminent One over every creature was "made a curse for us." Jesus the heir of all things, the one who is altogether lovely was "made a curse for us." He who was never a curse to anybody was made a curse for everybody. He who brought light, joy, and peace to the world's darkness, sorrow and strife was "made a curse for us." He who healed the sick, raised the dead, provided for the needy, and spoke words of grace and mercy was "made a curse for us." The curse that was due to fall on us fell on Him. God laid on Him the iniquity of us all. The Scriptures declare that "God was in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:19). God laid our curse on one who was mighty to save. The only sinless One was made a curse for the vile and sinful ones. The punishment due to fall on me fell on Him.

B. He was made sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). The Scriptures declare "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Jesus Christ was the only sinless person who ever lived. He only could ask "Which of you accuses me of sin?" John the Baptist said, "I have need to be baptized of you." Pilate said, "I find no fault in him." Judas

declared "I have betrayed innocent blood." The centurion who stood by the cross declared "Surely this man was the Son of God." Sin is the darkest, vilest thing that has entered into this universe. Tragedy upon tragedy has flowed from its entrance. Sin is the transgression of the law, missing the mark of God's holiness, failing to do what we should, failing to fear and reverence God, and failing to give him glory and thanks. It is iniquity and rebellion against God and produces a sure fruit of sorrow, grief, and death. Jesus had no sin and did no sin at any time. Yet, He was made sin for us. God dealt with Him as He must deal with sin and sinners. "The wages of sin is death." In Christ, God sentenced sin to death. The penalty that was due to fall on us fell on Him. Jesus took all our guilt and sin upon Him and bestowed upon the believer in Him all His righteousness. He, the perfect righteous one, took our sin that we, the unrighteous ones, might be made righteous. Again, we might say that "He stood before God with all our sin upon Him that we, through faith might stand before God with none of our sin upon us." The Father made His soul and offering for sin (Isa. 53:10). Jesus was condemned to death instead of us so that we could stand before God fully accepted in Him! He bought us with His blood (1 Peter 1:18-20): He bought out of the market place of sin and condemnation (Gal. 3:13) and loosed us and set us free. Are we thankful for what He has done? Do we give Him the love and worship He is due? Are we willing to count all things but loss for the knowledge of Him? These are sober-

ing questions for us to contemplate.

C. He was made alive (1 Peter 3:18). The Scriptures also declare that "He showed himself alive after his passion" (Acts 1:3). Peter proclaims, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God being put to death in the flesh, but quickened (made alive) by the Spirit." We have a living Savior. He came out of the grave and is alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18). While He was here on the earth He told his disciples "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). Through Adam we have inherited our natural bodies. Through Christ we shall inherit our spiritual bodies. The truth of the resurrection gives us the assurance that the Father has accepted the sacrifice for our sins and that one day He will give us new bodies like unto the body of his dear Son. "We shall be like him for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

D. He is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:27). Every thing that was necessary for our salvation God has provided in Christ. We are safe and eternally secure in Him. Every day He continually loads us with benefits and blessings and preserves our salvation. Never needful for us is He not able to supply. By Christ's sacrifice the justice of God has been satisfied, the law of God has been honored, and the person of God has been glorified. Because of His sacrifice, we have been regenerated, the Holy Spirit has come to live within us and guide us, and we are being taught to love righteousness

(Continued on page 3)

THE BLESSED HOPE

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:13, 14). In order to have “that blessed hope” (which is

a sure hope), you must believe that Jesus came to redeem you from all iniquity by His death for you on the cross, His burial and His resurrection from the grave.

The blessed hope is described as: a good hope (2 Thess. 2:16); a sure hope (Heb. 6:18); a living hope (1 Peter 1:3); a saving hope (Romans

8:24); a purifying hope (1 John 3:3); a comforting hope (1 Thess. 4:18).

It is the blessed hope of: the individual (Acts 1:11); the church (Eph. 5:26, 27); the servant (Luke 19:13); Israel (Romans 11:26); creation (Romans 8:22, 23).

— Gladwin Carpenter

HOW I ASCERTAIN THE WILL OF GOD

Surrender Your Own Will. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter.

Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord’s will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

Do Not Depend on Feelings. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions.

Seek the Spirit’s Will through God’s Word. I seek the will of the

Spirit of God through, or in connection with the Word of God.

The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Ghost guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.

Note Providential Circumstances. Next, I take account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God’s will in connection with His Word and Spirit.

Pray. I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.

Wait. Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate

judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly.

In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective.

“Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength” (Isa. 40:28, 29).

— George Mueller

WHAT CHRIST WAS MADE

(Continued from page 2)

and hate iniquity.

E. He was made a priest after the order of Melchisedec (Hebrews 6:5-6). He is our mediator, our intercessor, and our advocate. As our mediator He made peace with God; as our intercessor, He prays for us that our faith does not fail. As our advocate He represents us before the Father when Satan accuses us so that the

Father finds no fault in us. What he purchased on Earth, he maintains in heaven.

F. He was made a king (Psalms 2:5). The inspired Psalmists wrote “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion” (Psalms 2:5). The Scriptures say that He has been made a King by the Father, and that He will manifest himself as King in a future time. The unbelieving world may resist, but they cannot prevent

Him from reigning over this world.

Because of what Christ was made we have been made “the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:19) and sons of God and heirs of God through Christ (Galatians 4:7). How wonderful is our savior the Lord Jesus Christ to all that believe! Have you believed the gospel of Christ?

— Larry Windham

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Notice

The North Central MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Friendship Baptist Church, 212 County Road 39, Houston, MS on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. The conference will begin at 9:55 a.m. and conclude at 3:15 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will also meet with Friendship Baptist Church on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. The program is as follows:

5:30 p.m. Supper

6:25 p.m. Song

6:30 p.m. Bobby Adams

6:55 p.m. Jeremy Williams

7:20 p.m. Song

7:25 p.m. Chris Duncan

7:50 p.m. Offering: "The

Word of Life Messenger"

8:00 p.m. Benediction

Bro. Gladwin Carpenter and the church invite you to these conferences.

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Bro. Chris Duncan

Bro. Bobby Joe Poss

Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

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Bro. David Jay

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First Baptist Church

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