

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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No. 9

THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

Psalm 27

“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living,” (Psalm 27:13). David recognized God’s goodness. May we also see and appreciate His goodness to us. This Psalm gives us many great truths and lessons that will help us to see His goodness.

First of all in this Psalm we see “The Lord is my light and my salvation,” (vs. 1). Many years ago Jonah said “Salvation is of the Lord,” (Jonah 2:9). Simeon said, “For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,” (Luke 2:30). Luke said, “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). There is none other name than that of the Lord Jesus Christ to give salvation to the believing sinner. The Bible teaches us that Jesus paid the sin penalty by Himself. “When he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high,” (Heb. 1:3). When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, He provided salvation from the penalty of our sins. The gospel is “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). When

we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ we have salvation from sin’s penalty. “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). He has saved us from the penalty of sin, He is saving us from the power of sin in our lives, and one day He will save us from the presence of sin when He comes back again.

The Lord is not only our salvation. He is also our strength. “The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1). The word “strength” in this verse means a fortified place, a defense, a rock or a stronghold. We do not have any strength of our own, but He is the strength of our life. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly,” (Rom. 5:6). He is our strength in salvation and the strength for our daily lives. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble,” (Psalm 46:1). “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,” (Phil. 4:13). The Lord said to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness,” (II Cor. 12:9).

As we rejoice in the goodness of the Lord, we see His salvation, His

strength, and the importance of worship in the lives of God’s children. We see this wonderful truth in Psalm twenty seven. “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple,” (Psalm 27:4). In the Old Testament, the temple was a place to behold the beauty of the Lord in worship. The animal sacrifices were a figure or type of the Lord Jesus Christ who was to come to this earth as “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world,” (John 1:29). In the New Testament, God’s redeemed people have the privilege of worshipping Him in local Bible believing New Testament Churches.

“To behold the beauty of the Lord,” (Psalm 27:4) is such a wonderful expression. The word “behold” here is to gaze, perceive, to look or to see. In worship, we can behold the birth, the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. “Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary,” (Psalm 96:6). “For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty,” (Zech. 9:17). As we behold His beauty in

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A CHILD BORN, A SON GIVEN

During this time of the year there is often a lot of emphasis upon the baby Jesus. However, the Scriptures tell us that there is much more to the story. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given," (Isa. 9:6). Isaiah prophesied the coming of Jesus Christ as the "child born" and the "Son given." As to His humanity He is the "child born." As to His deity He is the "Son given." He is in one Person, fully and perfectly united, both God and man. Think of the mystery of it. The eternal Son of God is also the Son of Man. He did not merely occupy a human body. His incarnation was real. He assumed human nature spiritually, mentally and physically by being born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

His becoming man did not mean He ever ceased to be God or was ever born with or possessed a sinful nature. He has always been and is even now without sin. Isaiah depicted Him in marvelous terms. He proclaims Him "wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace," (Isa. 9:6). As the Son, He was co-equal with the Father. He laid aside that glory, but not the Deity (Phil. 2:6). It is the divine glory of the child born which makes the birth of Christ so mysterious, so wonderful, and so uplifting. He was the second (and last) Adam who came to bring life and redemption.

The genealogies of Matthew and Luke reveal to us the "Child born." Yet, He is different from any other child born then or ever, for He is

Emmanuel, God with us (Matt. 1:8). He is also "Jesus" who will save His people from their sins. He is a Saviour who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11) who will be good news to all people (Luke 2:11).

The gospel of John reveals Him to us as "the Son given." John's pictures of Jesus are filled with striking imagery. He is "Christ the Lamb of God" who is to be sacrificed for sin (1:29). He is also seen as "water to the thirsty" in John 4:14 and 7:37. He is bread for the hungry (6:35) and light for those who walk in darkness (8:12). He is the "door" to enter into God's presence (10:9), the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep (10:11), and He is the only way to the Father and to glory (14:6). Moreover, He is the true vine for all spiritual growth (15:1).

John also declares Him to be God's answer to any person's need, whether that person is rich or poor, moral or immoral, or religious or unbelieving. He gives a new birth to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews (John 3). He gives "living water," forgiveness, hope, and a new sense of purpose to the Samaritan woman who had been married five times and was now living with a man who was not her husband (John 4). He had mercy, grace, and forgiveness for the woman taken in adultery. He gave resurrection life to Lazarus, and comfort and encouragement to Martha and Mary (John 11). He was so pure that He could say, "Which of you accuses Me of sin?" Paul and others would declare "in Him was no sin at all." Yet, He

prays to the Father that we as His children might be with Him, behold His glory, and share in His glory (John 17:24).

No wonder the apostle Paul declares, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift," (II Cor. 9:16). For it is "unto us" that the Child is born and the Son is given. He was a Jew with Gentile ancestry, a man for all people. In Him was God's love and purpose manifested. God's love was manifested in that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." He is God's gift of grace to the helpless and hopeless. Someone has written:

*Not even God a greater gift could give
Nor heaven itself a dearer boon impart
When Jesus came and died that I might live,
God gave without reserve His very heart.*

But the story doesn't stop there, for He soon comes again to rule and to reign upon the throne of David. The One who once was slain is the One who now must reign. One day all opposition will be put down. A King will reign in righteousness. Every knee must bow, "the government must be upon His shoulders," (Isa. 9:6). He is the fulfillment of prophecy, history and destiny. All God's purposes find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. And He shall reign forever and ever and by God's grace we shall reign with Him (Rev. 22:5). Sin, sickness, suffering, and sorrow shall be no more. Hallelujah! Christ was born, Christ died, Christ arose, Christ ascended, and Christ is coming again to reign!

~Larry Windham

THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

(Continued from Page 1)

worship, we are greatly blessed. The pastor is to feed the people of God as he preaches God's word. "And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock," (Zech. 11:7). Here, Zechariah personalized Beauty and Bands. Beauty is delight, splendor, or grace. Bands is a rope or measuring line. It implies an inheritance or company,

a tied together portion. In God's marvelous grace, God's children are securely tied together and safe in Christ. "For the Lord's portion is his people," (Deut. 32:9).

Not only does the Lord through David teach the people "to behold the beauty of the Lord," but also "to enquire in his holy temple," (Psalm 27:4). The word "enquire" means to search or to seek out. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and

they are they which testify of me," (John 5:39). "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," (Acts 17:11).

May we as God's children behold the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Let us rejoice in His salvation and grow in His grace and in the knowledge of His word.

~ Gladwin Caprenter

WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP

"For 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). In Ephesians 2:8-9 the Lord reminds us through Paul that we are saved by grace through faith. He says it is not of ourselves and it is not of works. Salvation is a gift from God. After telling us this great truth, we are reminded from the Scriptures that God's saving grace comes to us through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ when we believe in Him. In salvation we are "created in Christ Jesus unto

good works." Good works result in our lives because we are saved and not in order to be saved.

In this new life from above, we are "created in righteousness and true holiness," (Eph. 4:24). This new man is "renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him," (Col. 3:10).

God has before ordained that we should walk in a way that is pleasing to Him. God instructs His children through His word in order for us to walk in His will. "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you," (John 15:3). Since we are His workmanship, we

are to walk worthy of our Lord. "I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called," (Eph. 4:1).

Are you saved by the grace of God through the shed blood of Christ? He died, was buried and rose from the grave according to the scriptures so that we can be saved when we believe in Him. If you are his child, you should live for Him, for "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

~Gladwin Carpenter

...Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

St. Matthew 1:20-23

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, located on Hwy. 41 south of Pontotoc, MS on Friday evening, January 9, 2009.

The program is as follows:

7:00 p.m. - Robert Alexander

Alt. - Billy Little

7:25 p.m. - Owen Hitchcock

Alt. - Alton Elrod

7:50 p.m. - Sammy Hardin

Alt. - Bobby Poss

Offering for "The Word of Life Messenger."

We will have a fellowship meal after the Bible study. Bro Fred Hartley, pastor, and the church invite you to this time of Bible study.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it. . ."

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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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