

The Word of Life Messenger

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

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LESSONS FROM THE THRONE

The word “throne” is a seat of authority. The Hebrew word means an elevated seat occupied by a person in authority. “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple” (Isaiah 6:1). The throne of Solomon was approached by six steps (I Kings 10:19). God’s throne is described as “high and lifted up” (Isaiah 6:1). When Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon the elevated throne, it had a great influence on his life. He said, “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts” (Isaiah 6:5). Isaiah “heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

When we as children of God see by faith the Lord sitting on the throne, our lives should be changed, even as Isaiah’s was. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died for our sins and was buried in a tomb, but He arose the third day. The resurrected Lord is the motive for our service as God’s children.

God’s throne is described in the Bible as “the throne of grace” and God’s children are invited to approach His throne. “Let us there-

fore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16). It is wonderful to know that God’s throne is a throne of grace. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who provided grace for every believer, is seated at the right hand of God. “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). “We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (Heb. 8:1).

The overcomer will one day sit with our Savior in His throne. “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Rev. 3:21). The overcomer is a child of God or a believer in Christ Jesus. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (I John 5:4,5).

The Lord’s throne is an everlasting throne. “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness

is the scepter of thy kingdom” (Heb 1:8). The Bible teaches that Christ will reign for a thousand years and we, as His children, will reign with Him. “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6). After that, He shall reign forever and ever in His everlasting kingdom. “And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 22:3-5).

After the thousand years, the Bible describes another throne for the lost or those who have never come to know the Lord Jesus as their Savior. This is the great white throne of judgment. This is a throne of judgment and all who stand before this throne will be “cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:15).

Do you know Jesus as your Saviour? If not, would you trust in Him, believing that He shed His blood on the cross for you and was buried and raised from the grave?

WHY A PERSON BORN AGAIN CAN NEVER BECOME UNBORN OR LOST

A person born again can never become unborn or lost because of the relationship of Jesus Christ to him. Christ is both his Substitute and Intercessor. As the believer's Substitute, He has suffered the full penalty of his sins on the cross. Isa. 53:5. I Peter 2:24. As the believer's Intercessor, Christ is now on the throne of the Father. I John 2:1,2. The believer's position "in Christ," and the promises given him "by Christ," also guarantee his eternal security.

Let us notice first the substitutionary work of Christ on the cross for the believer. Christ paid the full penalty of the believer's sins in His death on the cross. This blessed truth is set forth typically in the Old Testament. Many types set forth this great truth, but the most striking of all Old Testament types is that of the Passover - the paschal lamb dying instead of the firstborn. The Israelites were being held in Egyptian bondage. God, through Moses, had sent nine plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians, because they refused to let Israel go. God told Moses that He would send one more, and then, Pharaoh would let Israel go. The firstborn of both man and beast would die during this plague. As God, in judgement, had decreed that all of the firstborn should die, He likewise in mercy, provided a way of escape to all who would accept His way. He told Moses to tell the Israelites to take a "lamb without blemish, a male of the first year - and keep it up till the fourteenth day - and the whole assembly shall kill it - and take of the blood and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper post of the house" Exodus 12:5-7. God told Moses to tell the people that He would pass through the land of Egypt "that night" to "smite all the firstborn," but when He saw "the blood" applied on the doorpost, He would spare all the firstborn behind

the blood. The Lamb was slain instead of the firstborn - the lamb was the firstborn's substitute. The firstborn was safe in the house from destruction, not because of what He was thinking, saying or doing, but because of the blood applied on the doorposts.

This type sets forth the judgment and mercy of God in dealing with sinners. As God had decreed that all of the firstborn in Egypt should die, even so, has He decreed that "the soul that sins shall die" Ezek. 18:4,20. He further says: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Rom. 3:23. Therefore, since "all have sinned," "all shall die." The sinner is doomed to be "cast into the lake of fire - the second death" Rev. 20:14,15. God being righteous, cannot permit sin to go unpunished. Hell is the place where sinners shall be punished. What a doom awaits all who die in their sins!

God is not only righteous, but He is also merciful. Since God, in judgement, decreed that all sins should receive full punishment, He, likewise in mercy, provided a Substitute for all believing sinners. As the paschal lamb became the substitute for the firstborn in Egypt - to die in his stead - even so, Christ became the Substitute for the believing sinner, suffering the full penalty of his sins on the cross. "For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us" I Cor 5:7b. No person doubts that the paschal lamb suffered the full penalty of the firstborn. Why, then, should one doubt that Christ Jesus suffered the full penalty of the believer's sins on the cross? The scriptures clearly teach that He did suffer the full penalty of the believer's sins. "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree" I Pet. 2:24. "Christ died for our sins (all of them) according to the Scriptures" I Cor. 15:3,4. "For in that He died, He died unto sin

once (for all)" Rom. 6:10. These passages clearly teach that Christ paid the full penalty of the believer's sins once-for-all. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord (God) hath laid on Him (Christ) the iniquity of us all" Isa. 53:6. "The iniquity of us all" means the sins of all believers. The passages clearly state that God laid the believer's sins on Christ, and that Christ has suffered the full penalty.

There are two places where sins have been and shall be punished - Calvary's cross and hell. Hell is a Godforsaken place. In order for Christ to suffer the full penalty of sin on the cross, God, the Father, forsook Him. Forsaken of the Father, and bearing the full penalty of all believer's sins, He cried out: "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" Matt. 27:46. By imputation, God was not His Father as he hung on the cross bearing the sins of all believers, but His Judge, judging Him in all believing sinners' stead. Christ was suffering the full penalty of sins of all believing sinners at the hands of God, who, in righteousness, demanded that every sin be fully punished, even though borne by His Son. He suffered hell on the cross for who had, or who would, receive Him as Savior. "It is finished" the dying Savior cried out from the cross. This expression is the translation of a single word in the original which means: "to fulfill." Christ had fulfilled all types and prophecies of the Old Testament concerning Him: "to accomplish" - He had accomplished a complete redemption: "to pay in full" - He had paid the full penalty of sin for all believers of all ages; "to send or bear away" He had borne away all of the sins of all believers, never to return to condemn them.

-Hugh Tully

WHY GLORY IN THE CROSS?

Galatians 1:14 “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

It is the measure of man’s guilt. Acts 3:13-15 “The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus: whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go, but ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of Life, whom God hath raised from the dead, whereof we are witnesses.” Man is seen as what he really is when he put Jesus on the cross. The lost man murdered Jesus.

The manifestation of God’s love is seen in Romans 5:6-8 “For when we were yet without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” The proof of God’s love for the sinner is seen at Calvary. He did not die for

good people but for sinners. When we were unable to do anything for Him He loved us and died for us.

It is the means of salvation. John 3:14-15 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” Jesus was lifted up on the cross for our sins and was buried and raised again from the dead so that we might stand right in the sight of God. We come to have this salvation when we come to believe in Jesus as our Savior.

The cross is the mark of separation. (Galatians 6:14)

The cross is the motive for service. II Corinthians 5:14-15 “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” When a person is a believer then the cross will make him want to be obedient. Nothing will move us to do the will of the Lord like seeing Jesus dying on the cross for us. When we

remind the believer of the finished work of the Lord on the cross, this is the only thing that can motivate him to do the will of the Lord as this will.

The cross is the melody of Heaven. Revelations 5:8-10 “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having everyone of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” John said, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. The Lord is worthy of our praise because he is the Lamb that died for us. We never tire of praising the Lord for the cross of calvary.

These are only a few reasons for our glorying in the cross.

-Charles Ellis

JESUS DIED FOR THE UNGODLY

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” Rom. 3:23. That statement within itself brings all men unto condemnation, does it not? “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” Ezek. 18:4b. Then if all have sinned, then all are dead. “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,” Rom. 5:9. Aren’t you glad to know by the word of God that God loves you and gave His Son to die for you. My friends, that is the Grace of

God. Even though we were ungodly sinners, lost and doomed, Jesus died for us. Not that we love Him, but He loved us, sinners. Luke 5:32 “I come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Therein we see the grace of God being made known to man in His Son Christ Jesus; the just dying for the unjust. Man having sinned comes under condemnation. The penalty of sin being death, then we find ourselves helpless before God. Man cannot justify himself before

God, but God can and will through His Son.

To be just and the justifier of them that believe God has to meet the penalty of sin. Jesus, the righteous, takes upon Himself, the sins of the unrighteous and bears them in His own body on the cross of the tree. This He does for the ungodly that they might have the righteousness of God. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our

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If you are receiving multiple copies of this paper and are not using them, please send your address to:

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Reedy's Chapel Baptist Church near Derma, MS on Friday evening November 11, 2005. The program is as follows: "Christ in Daniel"

7:00 p.m. - Welcome, Prayer

7:05 p.m. - Cecil Fayard
(Daniel chs. 1-4)

7:35 p.m. - Robert E. Alexander
(Daniel chs. 5-8)

8:05 p.m. - Fred Hartley
(Daniel chs. 9-12)

8:30 p.m. - Business, Offering

8:40 p.m. - Light snacks served

The North Central Baptist Bible Conference will meet with Reedy's Chapel Baptist Church on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2005. The Conference begins at 9:55 a.m. and concludes at 3:05 p.m. Messages for the day will be from Matthew chs. 8-11, with 8 preachers on program.

Bro. Bobby Adams and Reedy's Chapel Baptist Church invite you to this time of Bible study and worship.

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JESUS DIED FOR THE UNGODLY

(Continued from Page 3)

Lord Jesus Christ; by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Rom. 5:1,2).

Do you see by the Word of God that Jesus did this for you? As many as receive Him, Jesus, God gives eternal life. This is the promise of God. Do you believe what God says of His Son? "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life; and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" I John 5:11,12. We know that we have life because we have the Son, the One who died for the ungodly. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly" Rom 5:6.

-James Corder

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