

# The Word of Life Messenger

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

Vol. 55

Tupelo, MS – December 2005

No. 12

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## ***THE PREEMINENT GLORY OF CHRIST***

### ***PART II***

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Christ is also preeminent in His manifested glory. Think of His birth, His creative work, His sustaining power and providence, His redemptive work, His resurrection and His headship over the church. All of these things declare his preeminent glory.

First, He was preeminent in His birth. He was born of a virgin, born of the Holy Spirit. He only was born without sin (Matthew 1:18). An angel told Mary and Joseph “Thou shall call his name Jesus because He shall save his people from their sins” (1:21). Again, prophecy foretold “they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is God with us” (1:23). At his birth angels sang “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:14). As the angel announced His birth to shepherds, he said “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour who is Christ the Lord” (2:11). Of no one else could it be said that above all else, He was to be a savior. He was preeminent in His birth.

Second, He was preeminent in creation. John declares “All things were created by Him and without Him was not even one thing created” (1:3). Paul in Colossians proclaims “For by him were all things created that are in heaven and in earth, visible and invisible, whether

there be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers – all things were created by him and for him” (1:16). To deny his power in creation is to deny the Bible. I may not understand it all but I know who created it all and who is over it all. Think of his vast power. It has been said that if the sun was hollow, 1,300,000 earths could fit inside it; there is a star named Antares which if hollow, could hold 64 million suns inside it; there is a star in the constellation Hercules which could contain 100 million stars the size of Antares; finally, there is a star Epsilon which could swallow up several million of the star in Hercules. Genesis says “he made the stars also” (Gen. 1:16). Where ever we look, we see the evidence of intelligent design in nature. Animal life, marine life, plant life, cell life all reflect his creative hand and glory. No wonder the Psalmist asks “What is man that thou art mindful of him?” Man can find no true meaning or purpose in life apart from his creator. He is preeminent in creation.

Third, He is preeminent in his sustaining work. Paul writes “He is before all things and by him all things consist” (Col. 1:17). Why do the seasons follow year after year as they do? Why does this earth maintain its course without becoming too hot or too cold? Who sends the

rain in its season and feeds the birds of the air? Why do all things work as they do? Why does the binding energy of the atom not collapse and the whole world disintegrate into chaos? It is the sustaining power of our savior that keeps all things running year after year. Moreover, the Scripture says “In him we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28). He gives us life, he sustains our life, and when he calls us home, no person can extend his own life. The Scripture says “He upholds all things by the word of his power” (Heb. 1:3).

Fourth, He is preeminent in redemption. The Apostle Paul says “In whom we have redemption through his blood” (Col. 1:14). Again, he says “Christ made peace by the blood of his cross” (1:20). Here we see that there was enmity between God and man. Colossians 1:21 says we were “once alienated and enemies in our mind by wicked works.” We were in rebellion against God; our ways were not His ways; our thoughts were not His thoughts. We were separated from God and guilty sinners before Him. We deserved God’s wrath and judgment. If He were to send us out to an eternity in hell it would have been no more than we deserved. But God, who is rich in mercy for his great love with which he loved

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## PART II

*(continued from page 1)*

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us (Eph. 2:4), redeemed us to Himself by the sacrifice of His Son as our substitute. While He was here on the earth, His Son had no sin; He did no sin; He always did the will of His Father. He was everything we should have been. God did not set aside the penalty due to be inflicted upon us, but by His grace (unmerited favor) He laid that sin upon His own sinless Son and He made peace with the Father by paying the penalty in full. The punishment that should have been ours fell on Christ; the curse that was upon us was borne by our Savior; the shame that was ours became His. The innocent died in the place of the guilty. What were the results of this great work of Christ? We were bought out of the market place of sin never to return again. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus." By faith in Christ we have peace with God; we are no longer at enmity with Him. We as believers are completely and eternally accepted and justified in Christ. Paul says that God "delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13). He broke Satan's hold on us and made us citizens of Christ's kingdom. He goes on to say we have a full forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14). Our sins have been blotted out (Col. 2:14) and separated from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalms 103:12). Through His reconciling death, he will present us "holy and unblamable and unprovable in his sight" (Col. 1:22). This means as believers we are set apart to God, fitted for eternity with Him, without blemish and free from accusation because the penalty has been paid and we are clothed in Christ's righteous-

ness. Only Christ could have purchased our redemption and made peace with God, and He did it by shedding His own precious blood. No one else can save men and there is no other way to the Father than through Him (Acts 4:12; John 14:6). He is preeminent in redemption.

He is also preeminent in His resurrection. In Colossians 1:18, Christ is described as the "firstborn from the dead". This means that His resurrection has priority over all other resurrections and is the basis for the future resurrection of all of His people. Jesus said "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). After Jesus died, He did not remain in an earthly grave. After three days and nights, He came out of that grave and the angels proclaimed "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here; he is risen" (Luke 24:5-6)! After Christ appeared unto many showing Himself alive with irrefutable proofs, Paul wrote "But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept. For by man (Adam) came death, by man (Christ) came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:20-22). This is the fulfillment of the hope of Job when he asked "If a man die will he live again?" (Job 14:14). He affirmed his conviction when he said that even though his body be destroyed he knew that one day He would see God in his own body with his own eyes (19:25-27). This has been the hope of believers down through the ages. When a believer dies, his soul immediately goes to be with the Lord, but one day in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the Lord shall return and the dead in Christ shall rise and the

living believers shall also be caught up with them in the air to meet the Lord. Our old bodies will be transformed into new glorious bodies like Christ's and we shall be fitted for eternity with Him (1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:1-3). He is preeminent in resurrection.

He is also preeminent in relation to the church. Colossians 1:18 says "he is head of the body, the church." Christ established His church while He was here upon the earth, the apostles being the first members. He gave to the church the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, the great commission and a method of church discipline (Matt. 16:18; Luke 6:12,13; Eph. 2:19-21; Matt. 18:15-20; Matt. 26:26-30; Matt. 28:18-20). The church has been given the truth and is to stand for and defend the truth, remembering that we will answer to our head (1 Tim. 3:15-16). Paul as a preacher and missionary of the church at Antioch said "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel," the good news of "how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15: 3-4). Paul in Ephesians says "unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph. 3:21). As Christ is exalted and magnified, and proclaimed as the all-sufficient and only savior through the church it brings glory to the Father. Moreover, the church is described as being the bride of Christ and will have a close personal relationship with Him throughout eternity (Eph. 5:21-33). Christ is preeminent in the Church.

- Larry Windham

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# ***GOD'S SON AND OUR SAVIOUR***

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God's Son died to draw sinners unto Himself. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). Sinners are described in the Bible as being without any strength to save themselves. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). The lost sinner is also an enemy of God. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). Also, the Bible describes the sinner as dead. "For the love of God constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead" (II Cor. 5:14). Jesus, God's Son died for us that we might not live unto ourselves (II Cor. 5:15), and that we might not be

condemned (Romans 8:34).

God's Son is our Saviour by virtue of His shed blood as He died for our sins on the cross, but also He had to be buried and raised from the grave. If Jesus had not come out of the grave, we would not have a Saviour and our faith would be in vain (I Cor. 15:17). "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth not more; death hath no more dominion over him" (Romans 6:9). Jesus will never have to die again. When He died for our sins, He paid the penalty in full and His resurrection guarantees that God is satisfied with the death of His Son. His resurrection from the grave qualifies Him with the ability to save the lost sinner. "Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for

them" (Heb. 7:25).

God's Son is not only our Saviour but also Jesus is the Shepherd who leads His children. "He calleth his own sheep by name and leadeth them out" (John 10:3b). Jesus leads us by going before us. "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice" (John 10:4). Psalm 23:2 describes our Lord as leading us by the still waters. Still waters are deep and dangerous waters. He also leads us in paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3). He leads us to green pastures where we can feed upon Him from His Word. Oh how we need to avail ourselves of the great truths of His Word and feast on the things of God that will cause us to grow and mature as His children.

- Gladwin Carpenter

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## ***WHAT CHRIST IS TO THE BELIEVER***

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### ***What Does God Have To Say To The Believer?***

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1. The believer is not condemned. (John 3:18)
2. Is in possession of everlasting life. (John 3:36)
3. Has remission of sins. (Acts 10:43)
4. Is counted righteous. (Rom. 4:5)
5. Is justified from all things. (Acts 13:39)
6. Those who believe may know they have everlasting life. (I John 5:13)
  
1. He is the Saviour from sins. (Matt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25)
2. He is the Door into the sheepfold. (John 10:7)
3. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (John 14:6)
4. He is the constant companion of the believer. (Heb. 13:5)
5. He is the true Lover of all times. (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20; Deut. 7:7,8)
6. He is the Security of the sheep. (John 10:28)
7. He is the Deliverer from judgment (John 5:24; Rom. 8:1)
8. He is the only One who saves ungodly people. (Rom. 4:5; 5:6; I Tim 1:15)  
Won't you take this Lovely One as your Saviour?
9. He is the Blessed Hope of the saved. (Titus 2:13,14)
10. He is the Peace of the redeemed. (Eph. 2:14; Col. 1:20)

- B.A. Wilson

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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 6, 2006.

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

Prayer

7:10 p.m. - Bro. Chris Duncan

Alt. - Bro. Billy Little

7:35 p.m. - Song

7:40 p.m. - Bro. Sammy Hardin

Alt. - Bro. John Gray

8:05 p.m. - Song

8:10 p.m. - Bro. Alton Elrod

Alt. - Bro. Gladwin Carpenter

Each preacher will choose his own subject.

“For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth (as there are gods many, and Lords many), But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him and our Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things, and we by Him. However there is not in every man that knowledge...”

Bro. James Howard Easley says don't forget the gospel (I Cor. 15:3,4).

## WORD OF LIFE MESSENGER

Published Monthly by the

Northeast Mississippi Baptist

Pastor's Conference, Inc.

Editors: Gladwin Carpenter, Larry Windham,  
and Bobby Joe Poss

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“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Col. 1:18).

“And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself, by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Col. 1:20).

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