
Words of Life News

Volume 27 Number 4

July—August 2020

Meeting Jesus: Are You Ready?

I had just told him he had not done enough to be saved!

I was the new young minister in the community. A member suggested that I visit a faithful old brother from another congregation. He was in the local hospital.

He was baptized some fifty years and he was afraid of death and what would follow. He was 77. I was 32.

I wanted to encourage and comfort him. I spoke of God's promised eternity; of God wiping away every tear, of no more pain or death; of a new heaven and earth and Jerusalem; of ruling with Him for eternity. I spoke of the joy of meeting Jesus.

"I hope I've done enough," he said, interrupting my speech.

I wasn't listening. I did not "hear" the fear in his voice or consider his possibly limited understanding.

I responded, "You haven't done enough. Nobody does enough to save themselves. The blood of Jesus saves each of us."

I have relived that hour. When I said "You haven't done enough" he stopped hearing me. From that point until I left his room he was praying, wishing, grasping for hope as he kept repeating the phrase, "I hope I've done enough. I hope I've done enough."

I was in his room for a terrible uninterrupted hour. My quick answer to his fear destroyed any possibility of helping him understand the cross as expressing God's grace.

I tried several approaches to assure him of God's great love displayed on Calvary; that Jesus came to save all who believed; that works had nothing to do with salvation; that it was the blood of Jesus that saved.

Continued from Page 1

He wasn't listening. He plea-begged God to count him worthy by his works.

I left his room in tears, begging God to comfort his soul, his plea ringing in my ears. Too late, I realized that my good intentions were nullified by a wrong approach. I failed to comfort him.

I share this personal experience because I remember preachers years older than me saying, "Preaching should be 90% Law and 10% Grace. You have to get their attention before they will listen.

Maybe. Maybe because *it is easier* to condemn sin and pound the pulpit saying repent and be baptized and then live faithfully every minute or else you will be lost!

Preachers can make a lot of noise and scare people without saying much or knowing much.

The fear of Hell is important but as a basis for inviting sinners to the cross, it falls short. At some point the conscience that continues sinning laughs at hell thinking, "I'll make it on my own."

Preaching about God's grace *requires* a basic understanding of the *why* of Jesus' life, His death, His resurrection, of His compassion for sinners and of Satan's wicked tactics, and of our weaknesses.

We learn about God through His holy inspired word. We are created in His image, spiritual beings with ability to think and act, and we are responsible for the result of acting out our decisions, (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15-17, 21-25; 3:1-24).

Ultimately the basis for seeking God is His holiness, His great love, and His invitation promising eternal salvation to all who yield to the leading of His Holy Spirit. It is God's wish that all men choose to be saved yet, He will not force any person to submit to His holy commands. Thus the majority of creation will reject Him (Acts 2:37-38; I Corinthians 3:16-17; I Timothy 2:3-6; Matthew 7:13-14; Revelation 16:8-11; 22:10-11).

God's eternal kingdom will be populated by people who *repent* of a life of sin and *yield* to His Lordship. They *choose* His presence where

Continued on Page 3

Continued From Page 2

righteousness dwells; they *seek* His kingdom and His righteousness; they *purpose* in their hearts to not defile themselves with the world's offerings; they *continue* to do right and to be holy, they *continue* serving Him while they wait for His coming for His own.

Question: Could I have helped my old brother to a better understanding of our God of love and compassion?

Maybe, by *having* compassion for him, by *listening* to his words, by "*hearing*" his fear, by being *sensitive* to His heart, by *telling* him that God *loved* him, that *he was saved*, that God remembered his sins no more, (Romans 8;1-39; Acts 22:16; Hebrews 8:12).

A week after my visit, my old brother went home to our Lord.

He knows now that God loves him.

May we all look forward to rejoicing in the presence of Jesus.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus .

Buford Smith

Africa Letters

I am grateful for the inspiring messages I listen from "Words of Life" program on Radio Africa.

It has been a great helper to my spiritual life, and I promise to continue listening for my spiritual blessing.

May God bless you, and thank you very much.

Have You Remembered "Words of Life" in Your Will?

WORDS OF LIFE, INC
P. O. Box 221
Sellersburg, IN
47172-0221
**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sellersburg, IN
Permit # 94

“Words of Life” News is published bimonthly and is sent free of charge to our contributors and other interested individuals.

All gifts to “Words of Life” are completely tax deductible.

You may also contact us via e-mail at :
wol1radio@gmail.com

**HAVE YOU SENT YOUR
MONTHLY GIFT FOR
“WORDS OF LIFE”?**

Radio Messages

Speaker—David Johnson unless indicated otherwise.

Prog.#	Date	Title
2031	08/02/20	Do What It Says
2032	08/09/20	Don't Show Favoritism
2033	08/16/20	Mercy Triumphs Judgement
2034	08/23/20	My Faith By What I Do
2035	08/30/20	Complete By What He Did
2036	09/06/20	Tame The Tongue
2037	09/13/20	Wisdom That Comes From Above
2038	09/20/20	He Gives Us More Grace
2039	09/27/20	Come Near To God
2040	10/04/20	Who Are You to Judge Your Neighbor?
2041	10/11/20	If It Is The Lord's Will
2042	10/18/20	Hoarded Wealth
2043	10/25/20	Be patient
2044	11/01/20	The Prayer Offered In Faith

Please note our current email address is;

“**wol1radio@gmail.com**” Our phone number is 502 276-4061.

Our web site is “**wordsofliferadio.net**”