

The Biblical Emphasis on the Living and Powerful

Introduction

- A. In reading the Bible one is continually impressed with the importance placed on that which is true, living, existent, and powerful.
- B. It soon becomes evident that these characterize the gospel or Christianity itself. God, His Word and His work among us are all described as related to truth, life itself, that which exists and is powerful.

I. God is Described as the "Living God".

He (Jesus Christ) saith unto them, But Whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the Living God.
Matthew 16:15,16

For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.
I Thessalonians 1:9

Observation: In speaking of God as "living" these verses state a great truth, namely, that God is "alive", that He "exists". From this we also gather a companion truth and that is - He is the source of all life. The implications of this overwhelms us. It means that all of us must "reckon" with God. We may not live as though God did not exist. To also realize that He is Truth, love and holiness indicates for us what our response must be to Him.

II. The Provision of God for Us is Described as "Living Water", John 4:10

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.

Observation: By use of the word "water", which was a favorite spiritual symbol among the Jews (Jeremiah 2:13), the Lord Jesus tells the samaritan woman that He could meet her need of salvation. He was "the gift God" and could do for her what no other person could do.

III. The Lord Jesus Himself is Described as "Living Bread", John 6:51.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven, if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever, and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Observation: This verse explains how the Lord Jesus can give us "living water". This is all based on the truth that He came to be our Savior by dying as our Substitute. He could give us eternal life because of Who He is - our Redeemer. By use of the term "bread" He signated Himself to be the source of spiritual life.

- IV. That Which the Believer may be to Others is Described as "Living Water"
John. 7:37,36.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living Water.

Observation: Because we belong to Jesus Christ, and have been given gifts, the believer may be used of God to help others (I Peter 4:10). The importance of this ministry is emphasized by using the same words which the Lord Jesus spoke to the Samaritan Woman (John 4:10).

- V. The Obedient Believer is Described as a "Living Sacrifice", Romans 12:1.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Observation: In contrast to the Old Testament sacrifices the present day believer, who has surrendered himself to God, is described as "living". The emphasis here is on living for God, doing His will, pleasing the Lord in attitude of life and action. By this we are reminded that the evidence of our surrender is found in our life.

- VI. The Word of God is Described as a "Living Word", Hebrews 4:12 (I Peter 1:23).

For the Word of God is Quick (living) and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Observation: In this verse the Scripture is described as "living" in that the Word of God is that which He may use, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, to bring life, grace, conviction, and help into the life of those who hear the Word. It is interesting to see how the Messiah is described as having grace poured into His lips (Ps. 45:2).

- VII. We May Come to God in a New and "Living Way", Hebrews 10:19,20.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated (newly made) for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.

Observation: These verses remind us that Jesus Christ said that He was the way". That truth is the emphasis here. We may come to God only through the Person and work of Jesus Christ. As the "way" and the "life" we find in Him, through repentance and faith, a "living way" to God. All other approaches, by way of contrast, are lifeless and unavailing. In Christ we come in confidence.

- VIII. The Christian Life is Described as a "Living Hope", I Peter 1:3.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Observation: The reason why the Christian life is described as a "living hope" is that its very reality and content is provided by and sustained by God Himself. The content of the "hope" will come true because God has promised it. Another emphasis here is that it is "living" in that all we have in our life grows out of our union with Christ.