

Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel, is with us
"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,
and shew my people their transgression,
and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 58:1

The Gospel

Study Prayerfully & Study Carefully

Holding Forth the Word of Life

1. Introduction

The phrase "**The Word of Life**" is used only twice in Scripture. The first time it is used by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians.

Philippians 2: 12: *"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.***
13: *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*
14: *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*
15: *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*
16: ***Holding forth the word of life;** that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."*

2. What is 'the Word of Life?'

Closely examining my Bible I find that the word '**word**' is mostly spelled with a small '**w**' and occasionally with a capital '**W**.' Checking **Strong's** dictionary we read the following:

"WORD 3056 logos (log'-os)

1) of speech

- 1a) a word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea
 - 1b) what someone has said
 - 1b1) a word
 - 1b2) **the sayings of God**
 - 1b3) **decree, mandate or order**
 - 1b4) **of the moral precepts given by God**
 - 1b5) **Old Testament prophecy given by the prophets**
 - 1d) doctrine, teaching
 - 1e) anything reported in speech; a narration, narrative
 - 1f) matter under discussion, thing spoken of, affair, a matter in dispute, case, suit at law
 - 1g) the thing spoken of or talked about; event, deed
- 3) **In John**, denotes the essential **Word of God, Jesus Christ**, the personal wisdom and power in union with God, his minister in creation and government of the universe, the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical, which for the procurement of man's salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the second person in the Godhead, and shone forth conspicuously from His words and deeds."

3. Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah

The second time the phrase ‘**the Word of Life**’ is used, it is by the Apostle John.

He Writes:

- 1 John 1: 1: *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the **Word of life**;*
2: *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)*
3: *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the **Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.***
4: *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may befull.”*

In short, the phrase: ‘**the word of life**’ means:

- **Firstly: the written word of God, the Holy Bible.** This includes the Almighty's commandments, His instructions and the **actual words** He and His Son spoke through the prophets and apostles of old.
- **Secondly:** when spelled with a capital 'W', the **Word of Life** refers to none other than the **living Word of God, Jesus Christ, (Yeshua the Messiah) the only begotten Son of God!**

4. The Word of Life...the Bible

Now that we know what the phrase ‘**the word/Word of Life**’ means, let us examine the first meaning: that is, the **written word of God - the Holy Bible**. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the **Bible**.

- **The Holy Bible:**
 - Is the only reliable record we have of the creation of the world as it actually occurred.
 - Leading scientists now have serious doubts about the much vaunted theory of **Evolution**.
 - It really cannot compare with the facts of **Creation**.
- **The Holy Bible:**
 - Contains the only reliable record of what is scheduled to happen in the future:
 - To Us, To Nations and To The Entire World.
- **The Holy Bible:**
 - Contains the only record we have of the Almighty’s law.
- **The Holy Bible:**
 - Contains the only written record of **Jehovah’s** and **Yeshua’s** actual words.
- **The Holy Bible:**
 - Is the only spiritual food prescribed by the Almighty for the sustenance of the human soul and the welfare of the human race.
 - Matthew 4: 4: *“But he (Jesus) answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**”*

Sad to say, today there are scores of conflicting Bible translations on sale; and believers are unsure as to which is the **REAL word of God**. The choice is **staggering** and **confusing** to say the least.

- Which of these is the **REAL Word of God?**
 - In recent years, after considerable study and soul-searching, I have returned to the **Authorized King James Version, first published in 1611**. Without a doubt, it is **The Real Word of God**. Be on your guard for the extremely deceptive and positively dangerous **New King James Version**.
- **Then we have these translations**

- The Revised Standard Version
 - The New American Standard Version
 - The New International Version
 - The Living Bible
 - Good News for Modern Man
 - The New English Bible etc. etc.
- **They cannot all be right for they contradict each other in many places.**
 - They all say different things! They are not the same. It's like having 10 conflicting versions of the highway code. Chaos is the result.

5. Son of God ... Yeshua the Messiah

As mentioned earlier, the second rendering of the Greek word 'logos,' when I write or speak of the 'Word' capital ('W') I mean **Jesus**, the only begotten **Son of God**. John starts his Gospel with this passage:

John 1: *1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 2: The same was in the beginning with God.
 3: All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 4: In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
 5: And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
 6: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
 7: The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
 8: He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
 9: That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
 10: He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
 11: He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
 12: But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
 13: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.) full of grace and truth."*

Listed here are many stunning facts, which we do well to consider and believe. They are:

- In the beginning, **Jesus Christ (Yeshua) was with God**. He didn't first come into existence in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. He existed from the beginning of time!
- **Jesus Christ (Yeshua) is God**. He is not just a good man who lived a good life and taught many wonderful truths. **Yeshua is God!**
- **All things were created by Jesus Christ!** He is not a created being like Lucifer, or Adam and Eve. **Yeshua is the Creator of all things!** This means, the entire universe!
- **In Him is life - eternal life!** If you want to live for all time, then you must believe in Him.
- **He lights the conscience of every soul on earth - Jew and Gentile.** They may never have heard of heard his name or the Gospel story; but, in varying degrees, Jesus Christ lightens their consciences nonetheless.

These are eternal facts, which we must accept if we are to call ourselves '**believers.**' That is what the Scriptures teach. You are not a believer if you do not believe these basic Bible doctrines!

These are eternal facts, which we must accept if we are to call ourselves '**true believers.**' That is what the Scriptures teach. **You are not a believer if you do not believe these basic Bible doctrines!**

6. Holding Forth

Strong's 1907 epecho {ep-ekh'-o}

- to have or hold upon, apply, to observe, attend to,
- to hold towards, hold forth, present

7. Summary

Our lesson today is a simply one. As believers we are to **hold forth, apply, attend to** and **present the Word of Life** to the world. By the phrase '**Word of Life**'we mean:

1. **The living Word of God, that is, the Son of God, the Creator, the Sustainer and Saviour of mankind.**
2. **We are also to hold forth, apply, attend to and present the Holy Bible to the world.**

All this is part of what Paul calls '**working out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**' This is our sacred duty and we cannot afford to be careless about it. I trust that we shall all take this message to heart and allow God to finish what He has started in our own lives.

AMEN!

In the Son's Name - For the Father's glory.

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