

WINDOW ON THE WORD

TAPES AND LITERATURE BY WORD OF TRUTH

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It has been said, "The heart cannot rejoice in what the mind does not comprehend."

*Word of Truth aims to establish the proper link of
emotion and intellect by opening a window on the word.*

Words of the Faith

σωτήρ (so tar)

The word *savior* conveys two ideas. First, it refers to *one who delivers*. Second, it refers to *one who preserves*. In order to get the force of the word, one needs to remember that New Testament vocabulary consists of words that were common to the readers. God revealed Himself in the language of the market place, the home, and the streets.

Outside of the New Testament, there are three sources for these words. First, there is the papyri, which consists of agreements, receipts, wills, letters, memoranda, etc. (non-literary papyri, private affairs). There are also codes and regulations, edicts and orders, etc. (non-literary papyri, public affairs). In addition to this is the literary papyri made up of poetry, both tragedy and comedy. Second, we have the ostraca, which is broken pottery that was used as "stationery." Third, we possess many inscriptions. These are sources from which we may derive the meaning of words that are used in the New Testament.

How was the word *savior* used in these everyday documents? First, many deities were called savior, especially Asclepius, the god of healing. The Ptolemies and all the Roman emperors were called saviors. In an inscription dated A.D. 45, the town council of Ephesus acclaimed Julius Caesar as savior of life. A Roman prefect was addressed as follows: "I turn to you my preserver (*sotar*) to obtain my just rights." Physicians were also called saviors.

When one turns to the New Testament, the word is given a meaning never found in usage outside the Bible. John 4:42 is an example, "...we have heard for ourselves and

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Suggested Studies

Skillful Living

Go to any bookstore and you will find a large section devoted to self-help books — "how to's" for living a successful life. But we challenge you to study God's thoughts on skillful living. The wisdom book of Proverbs is introduced with a short prologue of several verses. Here, we are told of the purpose of the entire book, a section largely devoted to informing the reader of the great benefits offered to the obedient listener. This can be easily seen in the Bible text by reading Proverbs 1:2-6.

To know wisdom and instruction,

To discern the sayings of understanding,

To receive instruction in wise behavior,

Righteousness, justice and equity;

To give prudence to the naive,

To the youth knowledge and discretion,

A wise man will hear and increase in learning,

And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

To understand a proverb and figure,

The words of the wise and their riddles.

Proverbs is written to give the believer moral skill — "wisdom and instruction." *Wisdom* (basic meaning *skill*) means more than just physical or technical skill; it refers to skill in living. *Instruction* here refers not to instruction of the intellect but to instruction of the moral nature of the believer.

Proverbs is also written to give the believer mental skill — "to discern the sayings of understanding." This is not just learning the facts, but the ability to use those facts well.

The lessons on skillful living from the Proverbs series are available for streaming or download on our website, www.WordofTruthKC.org or on CD (Pro 58-62). To order, send the enclosed order form, call and leave a message at 1-800-326-4414, or the best way is to email your order to wtruth@kc.rr.com.

In addition to the recorded messages on Proverbs, we also have a book by Chester McCalley, *Portraits in Proverbs*. It contains several character sketches of those personalities we meet in Proverbs, such as the sluggard, the ideal woman, the true friend, the fool, and others. If it's not already part of your library, order your copy today. □

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know that this One is indeed Savior of the world." *This One* points to the exclusive Savior; *the Savior* points to a specific Savior; *the world* points to a universal Savior, Jesus Christ. Suddenly, a word applied to many men and many deities is now applied exclusively to Jesus Christ. The world had never heard of a single savior, and the word *savior* is totally transformed.

I John 4:14 is a companion passage. "And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world." A single Son, a single Savior, He sent for a whole world.

It is important to remember that though the New Testament uses the language of the people of the first century, it infuses these words with new and glorious meaning. God uses the words of Koine Greek and impregnates them with meaning that elevates them to a place of eternal dignity. The word *sotar* illustrates the point. In the ancient world there were saviors many; in the New Testament there is a Savior one! □

Father, we are thankful for your grace. You look at us as sinners. Yet you gave your Son. We are grateful that you responded by grace, by your Son, by His death and perfect salvation. We love you. If we say that in honesty, we want to obey you. When we obey, motivated by love, produced by divine grace, you reward us as though we had produced it. We are thankful for this grace.

~ Chester McCalley

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OUR PURPOSE:

To provide sound doctrinal Bible study materials in the form of audio lessons and publications to help believers learn and understand God's word.

OUR FINANCIAL POLICY:

Word of Truth does not charge for its materials but does encourage contributions on the basis of your appreciation of the materials and your ability to give.

Christmas Cards

The focus of this year's highlighted card is based on John 1 and emphasizes that our Creator loved us so much He became man without diminishing His deity to redeem us as His eternal possession. John 1:14 is quoted on the inside of the card and a description of Jesus as Creator, Savior, and Redeemer is given. The cards come with white envelopes.

Other cards offered over the past years are available as well. The cards are briefly described on the enclosed order form, but you can view all of these beautiful cards, complete with their messages and in color, on our website, www.WordofTruthKC.org.

Also available are several small publications that are the right size to use as enclosures. "God's Path to Salvation," "God's Path to Fellowship," and "The Indescribable Gift" can be included in your Christmas cards with no extra postage required.

As with all Word of Truth materials, the cards are offered on a grace basis; gifts according to your appreciation and ability to give are appreciated.

Use the enclosed form to place your order for cards and publications. You can also email your order to wtruth@kc.rr.com or call and leave a message at 1-800-326-4414. Include your phone number in case we need to contact you about your order. Please be specific about which cards and how many you'd like and place your order early to guarantee availability. □

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