

When sin is your burden, Christ will be your delight."-THOMAS WATSON

I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him. - C.H. Spurgeon

“When we learn to lean back in God's sovereignty, we can experience great inner peace. Our troubles may not change, our pain may not diminish, and our loss may not be restored. But the power of those things to harm us is broken as we rest in the fact that God is in control.” ~Joni E. Tada

### THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

*(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)*

19. Q. Did all mankind fall in Adam’s first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression (Gen. 2:16, 17; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21, 22).

20. Q. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery (Rom. 5:12).

### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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#### Services:

Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

# THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

## THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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### THE HIGH AND LOFTY ONE

*For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Isaiah 57:15*

The misapplied words commonly used in a culture reveals much about their values. One such example in common use today is the word “awesome.” It is most often heard with regard to something that occupies a high place in the mind of a pleasure seeker. One may be heard to say that “this milkshake is awesome.” Modern dictionaries include the idea of excellence or enthusiastic approval. The word “awesome” is not in the 1828 Webster’s dictionary. The word, “awe,” however, is defined as “Fear mingled with admiration or reverence; reverential fear.” This indicates a vast change in the way our society views God. When His name is commonly used as a “by-word” and mere objects of enjoyment are called “awesome,” something is greatly amiss.

Only God in the Trinity of His persons is worthy of awe. So, the Psalmist declares: *Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. Psalms 33:8.* And again, *Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. Psalms 119:161.* Herein is the problem revealed. The Bible, whose authenticity is questioned and whose accuracy is doubted is not seen as the Word of the High and Lofty One. That which men read and/or cast off as common literature is to be revered as the prophet does here. “Thus saith the High and Lofty One...” Men have endeavored to alter the order as it is described here. We note the contrast between

the “High and Lofty One” and the “contrite ones.” Men would rather follow the pattern of their leader who would exalt himself above God. The result is that some take no notice of God at all. Some acknowledge but without any semblance of worship. Still others substitute a form of religion that is pleasing to the flesh and pursue it with varying degrees of vigor. But, in all these the power of God is denied and true worship of God is absent.

When the elements of this text are realized there will be true worship and the delight will be mutual with the High and Lofty One and the contrite spirit. The position of God above all is the first thing noted. We often hear the debate as to which man has the greatest power or which nation is the most powerful of all. Yet, we rejoice to know Him, through Christ Jesus our Lord, who is infinitely high above all. He is higher in all ways. He is infinitely the “Mighty God” and supremely powerful and able to do all that He wills in the army of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. He alone is “mighty to save.” His knowledge knows no bound. His wisdom is beyond question. The challenge is thrown out to men in that: *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9.*

While we know the meaning of eternity we, in our finite minds and bound by time, cannot envision eternity. It is of greater difficulty to

grasp the picture here of Him who “inhabiteth eternity” knowing no beginning or end and always the same, glorious in every way. The comparatively lives of men are as vapor that appears for a time and vanishes, or the flower that endures for a while and then dries up and is gone. Therefore we worship One who is both eternally old and ever new. It is the “Ancient of Days” whose mercies and compassions are new every morning. Praises are exclusively due unto our immutable God.

To say that God is Holy leaves us searching for definition. He is pure, perfect and complete in moral character. The Psalmist seemed to simply worship at this thought when he said: *He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. Psalms 111:9.* Men tend to make relative judgments as to what is good and often resort to the standards of acceptance by a society. So it is that evil becomes good in their eyes. But, the mandate is “Be ye holy for I am holy.” Having said all this we still stand in awe of Him and the Holiness that is His Name and we marvel at such purity and beauty.

It is the infinite wisdom of God that directs such a way as to bring about the relationship

described in the latter part of this text. He inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are contrite, those crushed beneath a load of sin. The charges against the people to whom the prophet wrote are strong and reflect the depraved nature of men. They were fixed in their wickedness and idolatry. Yet, discovered among men were those whose hearts had been broken and had despaired of all hope. These are those whose hearts had been quickened and made sensitive to the often state of sin and depravity they had pursued. This coupled with a view of the High and Lofty One whose name is Holy left them without any recourse but the mercy of God. It is for these that Christ Jesus came into the world to bear their sins in His body on the tree so that it might be said of Him that “through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.” Paul therefore preached of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We who know Him marvel that He did not merely throw us a crumb of survival. He dwells with us who are broken and contrite in spirit to revive our hearts to a precious eternal life with Him. From such comes the true worship of God and to them He is truly “awesome.” *bhs*

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What God has prepared for those who love Him!

*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9*

Oh! what enlightenment, what joys, what consolation, what delight of heart--is experienced by him who has learned to feed on Jesus--and on Jesus alone. Yet the realization which we have of Christ's preciousness is, in this life, imperfect at the best. As an old writer says, "Tis but a taste!" We have but tasted "that the Lord is gracious," but we do not yet know how good and gracious He is; although what we know of His sweetness, makes us long for more. We have enjoyed the first fruits--and they have set us hungering and thirsting for the fullness of the heavenly vintage! Here on earth, we are like Israel in the wilderness, who had but one cluster from Eshcol--but there, we shall be in the vineyard!

We are but beginners now in spiritual education; for although we have learned the first letters of the alphabet, we cannot read words yet, much less can we put sentences together! As one says, "He who has been in heaven but five minutes--knows more than all the theologians on earth!"

We have many ungratified desires at present--but soon every wish shall be satisfied! All our powers shall find the sweetest employment in that eternal world of unbounded joy.

O Christian, within a very little time, you shall be rid of all your trials and your troubles! Your eyes which are now suffused with tears--shall weep no longer. You shall gaze in ineffable rapture upon the splendor of Him who sits upon the throne! Nay, more--you yourself shall sit upon His throne! The triumph of His glory shall be shared by you! His crown, His joy, His paradise--these shall be yours! You shall be co-heir with Him who is the heir of all things! C. H. Spurgeon

## Six Facts Plainly Revealed in the Gospel Romans 3:24-26

While the Gospel of Christ is the singular message of all the Holy Scriptures, it is briefly stated, summarized in many passages of Scripture. One of the clearest, brief, inspired summaries of the Gospel is found in Romans 3:24-26. Following the example of Inspiration, let me summarize the Gospel in six, plain, unmistakable statements.

1. All men and women by nature, since the fall of our father Adam, are sinners, alienated from God. — “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). As sinners, we are alienated from the life of God and have become enemies unto God. The wages of our sin and enmity to God is death. Every transgression must receive its just recompense of reward (Hebrews 2:2). All sin must be punished, either in the sinner or in the sinner’s Substitute. — “The soul that sinneth, it shall die!” (Ezekiel 18:2). — But...

2. It is the will of God to save sinners. — “He delighteth in mercy!” God has decreed the salvation of some. Christ came to save some. There are some people in this world who must and shall be saved, because it is the will of God to save them; and God’s will cannot be frustrated (John 10:16). Every chosen sinner (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14), every predestined son (Romans 8:29-30), every heir of the covenant (Ephesians 1:3-7), everyone whose name was written in the Lamb’s Book of Life from the foundation of the world must be saved (Revelation 13:8). There is no possibility that even one of God’s elect will perish! — However...

3. It is impossible for a holy and just God to save any sinner apart from the satisfaction of His justice (Hebrews 9:22). He declares, “I will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:7). I know that God is omnipotent, almighty, and sovereign. He does what he will. But God cannot do that which is contrary to His nature. We do not rob God of His sovereignty when we repeat the declaration of Scripture and say, “God cannot lie.” He who is the Truth cannot lie. Neither do we rob God of His sovereignty when we assert this truth of Holy Scripture: — God cannot forgive sin without the satisfaction of justice.

4. The only way the justice of God could ever be satisfied is by the substitutionary sacrifice of His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Job 34:23; Romans 3:24-26). God could not die, and man could not satisfy; but the God-man both died and satisfied. Would God almighty slay His darling Son, if there were any other way to save His people? If the salvation of His people could be accomplished by any means other than His death upon the cross, would not God the Father have granted his tormented Son the desire of his soul?

5. It is impossible for God in His holiness to punish any sinner for whose sins justice has been satisfied by the blood of Christ (Isaiah 53:11 Romans 7:14). The law has no claim upon an executed felon! “Payment God cannot twice demand, first at my bleeding Surety’s hand, and then again at mine!”

6. Every sinner who trusts the Lord Jesus Christ has been chosen, redeemed, and called, and must be forever saved. It is written in the Book of God, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). May God the Holy Spirit now enable you by his sovereign grace to trust the Lord Jesus Christ.

Don Fortner