

Fervency in prayer is as fire to the incense--it makes it ascend to Heaven as a sweet perfume. To induce believers to pray in faith, let them remember the bountifulness of God. He often exceeds the prayers of His people:

Hannah asked a son--God gave her not only a son, but a prophet.

Solomon asked wisdom--God gave him not only wisdom, but riches and honor besides.

Jacob asked that God would give him food and clothing, but the Lord increased his riches to two bands.

The woman of Canaan asked but the life of her child, but Christ not only gave her that--but the life of her soul also! Thomas Watson

## 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)*

25. Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God become man?

A. Christ the Son of God became man by taking to himself a true body (Heb. 2:14, 17; 10:5), and a reasonable soul (Mt. 26:38); being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her (Luke 1:27, 31, 34, 35, 42; Gal. 4:4), yet without sin (Heb. 4:15; 7:26).

26. Q. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ as our Redeemer executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation (Acts 3:22; Heb. 12:25; 2 Cor. 13:3; Heb. 5:5, 6, 7; 7:25; Ps. 2:6; Is. 9:6, 7; Mt. 21:5; Ps. 2:8-11).

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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 MEEK BEAUTIFIED

*For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. Psalms 149:4*

Reasons for praise are causes for wonder. We find mandates and exhortations to praise throughout the Word of God. Often, as is the case here, we are made to marvel at the reason given. As to the person of God and of His Son we are drawn out in worship and praise at the contemplation of all the Excellency revealed in Him. His is worthy of praise in and of Himself with no consideration of ourselves. But, the text is here given as reason for praise and rejoicing. We are amazed that such a thing could be that God should take pleasure in any among the sons of Adam and that He should bestow such grace upon them as to esteem them beautified.

There is much revealed as to the declaration of the depravity of mankind and such as sets men in direct opposition to the beauty that is found with the Lord alone. The best of man is rejected as “filthy rags” and thus he cannot of himself find a place of acceptance with God. From the time of the fall it has become increasingly evident that man is drawn to the filth of this world and persists in rebellion after the manner of the god of this world. *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Ephesians 2:3.*

The Gospel of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ answers the question as to the remedy for the lost and undone condition of His people. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. The Blessed Holy Spirit quickens and

creates anew and by faith they lay hold on the promises of God as they are in Jesus Christ our Lord. And in this way they are presented every whit whole and acceptable unto God. Indeed we sing “Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.” And thus we are made “accepted in the Beloved,” who is Christ Jesus the Lord. If that were not enough, we are brought to a greater extension of salvation.

The statements of the Father with reference to the Son in the New Testament seem to be exclusive. At His baptism the Father declared “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” In the midst of rejection and persecution Matthew identifies Him from the Old Testament thusly: *Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. Matthew 12:18.* At the Mount of Transfiguration the mandate is given to the disciples that “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.” From such lofty considerations as these we can only conclude that anything that pleases God must have as its source and originate in Christ Jesus our Lord. There are many expressions of love to the people of the Lord. An example is Daniel. *At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. Daniel 9:23.* The pleasure that He derives from men comes as a result of Christ in them. Even the faith that pleases God is

the gift of Him who is its “author and finisher.”

But this blessedness here goes on. He beautifies the meek. We are thus directed to the words of our Lord in: *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5.* Such meekness as is received of the Lord comes with no pretense of righteousness or merit and in fact they have neither. They are those who cast themselves on the mercy of the Lord and plead with the publican “God be merciful to me a sinner.” See also: *The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. Psalms 147:11*

We have often heard that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” This saying or a form of it dates back as far as 300 B.C. While this speaks to the subjectivity of men, with God beauty is an absolute and finds its definition in Christ. It is thus the character of Christ that adorns and beautifies the meek. All that is beautiful pertaining to them is a work of grace. It is truly the fruit of the Spirit which is no less than that which is found ultimately in Christ and becomes in His people “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Thus we rejoice to read: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering,*

*gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23.* While we often think of these things as functional, to the Lord they are the beautification of the meek. The inward qualities of love, joy and peace are displayed in the countenance of those who possess His nature. Manifestation of love directed toward our fellowman and especially they of the household of faith is in imitation of none other than Christ. The submission before God exhibited by faith, meekness continued and a life ordered before God seeking always to please Him is beauty indeed. Truly, the Lord looks on the heart and in those born again of the Spirit He sees there the image of His Son. Hope in Christ, delight in holiness and the desire to please God above all else is way of life to the meek and such reserve no place for pride. Their delight is in the Lord and they love mercy.

The wonder of all this is that there is no claim of beauty on the part of the possessor. They delight to attribute all to Him and pray with the Psalmist: *And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us... Psalms 90:17. bhs*

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### An Unshakably Happy God

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:11)

God is absolutely sovereign.

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases” (Psalm 115:3).

Therefore he is not frustrated. He rejoices in all his works when he contemplates them as colors of the magnificent mosaic of redemptive history. He is an unshakably happy God.

His happiness is the delight he has in himself. Before creation, he rejoiced in the image of his glory in the person of his Son. Then the joy of God “went public” in the works of creation and redemption.

These works delight the heart of God because they reflect his glory. He does everything he does to preserve and display that glory, for in this his soul rejoices.

All the works of God culminate in the praises of his redeemed people. The climax of his happiness is the delight he takes in the echoes of his excellence in the praises of the saints. This praise is the consummation of our own joy in God.

Therefore, God’s pursuit of praise from us and our pursuit of pleasure in him are the same pursuit. This is the great gospel! John Piper from *Desiring God*

*Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; Isaiah 49:8*

From the pen of Charles Spurgeon:

Jesus Christ is Himself the sum total of the covenant, and, as one of its gifts, He is the possession of every believer. Dear Christian, are you able to fathom what you have received in Him, “for in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” (Col. 2:9)? Consider the word God in all its infinite greatness, and then meditate on the beauty of “becoming mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13). Remember, as God and man, all that Christ ever had or has is yours purely because of His favor. It has been freely bestowed on you and will be your inheritance forever. Our blessed Jesus, as God, is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. Isn’t it comforting to know that all of these glorious attributes are totally yours? Does He have the power you need? His power is yours in order to support and strengthen you, subdue your enemies, and sustain you forever. Does He have the love you need? There is not a drop of love in His heart that is not yours, and you may dive into His immense ocean of love and say, “This is all mine!” Does He have the justice you need? This may seem to be an unpleasant attribute, but even it is yours. And it is this very justice that will make sure everything promised in His covenant of grace will indeed be secured for you. You also share in the Father’s delight that was upon Him as a perfect man. He was accepted by the Most High God. Therefore, dear believer, God’s acceptance of Christ is your acceptance as well. Do you not realize that the love the Father bestowed on the perfect Christ He now bestows on you? All that Christ accomplished is yours. The perfect righteousness Jesus displayed is yours. Throughout His untarnished life He obeyed the law, made it honorable, and His righteousness is now imputed to you. Through the covenant, Christ is yours!



Who You Are in the Dark -- Randy Alcorn

Character is what you are in the dark when no one but God can see you. Image is how we look on the outside. Character is who we are in the dark when no one but God can see us. Character is who we really are. All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Anyone can look good in front of an audience, or even in front of their friends. It’s an entirely different thing to stand naked before God, to be known as you truly are on the inside. “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3–4). In light of what is ours in Christ, Peter says in verse 5 that we should “make every effort” to cultivate Christlike character and habits. So if God has already given us everything we need in Christ, shouldn’t we invest our lives getting to know Him better rather than seeking fulfillment elsewhere? Perspectives from God’s Word “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit” (Proverbs 16:2). “So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12). Perspectives from God’s People “When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.” —Billy Graham “Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones.” —Phillips Brooks

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. Isaiah 61:10*