

DEVOTION—Whole-hearted THE pearl fisher standing on the rock plunges deep into the sea; he does not know whether or no he shall bring up a pearl that will decorate an emperor's diadem, but he searches the deeps in that hope: and why should not he bring up such a treasure as well as anybody else? No matter though the fisherman himself may be coarse, and ragged, and rugged; yet he may light upon a priceless pearl. And you, whoever you may be, I charge you, in the name of the eternal God, plunge yourself into your work with whole-hearted devotion, and you shall yet discover some hidden jewel, which shall adorn Immanuel's diadem. Surgeon in *Barbed Arrows*

## 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)*

32. Q. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us (John 1:11,12) by his Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5,6).

33. Q. How doth the spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us (Eph. 1:13, 14; John 6:37, 39; Eph. 2:8), and thereby uniting us to Christ, in our effectual calling (Eph. 3:17; 1 Cor. 1:9).

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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

Volume 8, No. 9

March 1, 2015

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### RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE

*And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Colossians 3:10*

Positive change is a characteristic of true believers. Men tend to see things as a point action that brings an effect and then remains unchanged. Sadly, this is enough with many who having made a profession of faith or having reached a certain level of understanding determine that nothing more is needed or required. In fact, they do not experience any growth or development in the things they claim and they are insensitive or resistant to change occurring in others. We are reminded of: *For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Jeremiah 17:6.* But, the encouragements of the Lord in the Parable of the Sower and the observations of the Apostles (God giveth the increase) speak to us of growth and development as an ongoing process. Furthermore, we may conclude from passages such as this text that apart from this growth in the knowledge of Christ there can be no assurance of life at all. *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. John 6:53.*

The existence of the “New Man” is assumed in this observation. In regeneration we are given new life in Christ and sanctification teaches us that there is instilled in us a holy principle of life which causes a desire for likeness to Christ our Lord. The design of God that we should be conformed to the image of His Son is not

pressed upon an unfit “old man.” It is certainly not within the reach of either the desire or ability of that old nature to become as God requires. It is rather that His creation grows up unto Him by the creative work and maintenance of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is begun, maintained and consummated by grace alone!

While we readily confess that it is all of grace, we note that we are made participants in the Spirit led process of growth. We find both exhortations and encouragements to grow and be renewed. Paul reminds us of a pursued process: *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2.* He further noted that there is a progressive change where new creation has begun. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17.* Old things are dropped and the movement is away from them. As Gill says, “there is a new course of life, both of faith and holiness; a new way of serving God through Christ by the Spirit, and from principles of grace...” It is the use of the word “new” that fixes the idea of change. The language indicates that it is made new and stays that way! What a precious thought. It is not just that these garments never wax old, but that there is an ongoing revelation of Christ and all that pertains to Him. In Romans 6 we find that the life of the believer is a study in

“newness.” *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4.* The wise man observed that there was nothing new under that sun and that all was vanity. In the economy of grace the only constant with the believer is increase in the life and knowledge of Him who changes not.

To think of something being eternally new is foreign to the finite mind. We learn something today and tomorrow it is “Old hat.” Yet, there is an eternal freshness to that which is derived from our Lord. Every truth of God remains new and exciting in the mind and heart of those who love the Lord. Things they have known for years are studied and grasped again and again with renewed vigor and joy. And with every such experience the precious things of Christ grow larger and more precious. Rising above the sorrows of Jeremiah was a living consciousness of the mercy and compassions of God. *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23.* So it is with all who would follow after righteousness as it is in Christ

our Lord that we are renewed in the knowledge that is not a thing of the past; it is rather fresh as we see ourselves alive unto God with a hope which grows more precious day by day. “Morning by morning new mercies I see!” Did not our Lord teach us to expect and experience this freshness and renewal when He promised: *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:38.*

The believer is preciously equipped for change in that: *And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:16-17.* The righteousness of God is revealed from “faith to faith.” John Gill preciously wrote of this renewal in noting that the new man is made, “after the image of Christ, to which the elect of God are predestinated to be conformed, and which is stamped in regeneration; and more and more appears by every transforming view of Christ, and will be perfected in heaven, when they shall see him as he is, and be perfectly like him, who is not only the pattern, but the Creator of it, even the author and finisher of faith.” Amen. *bhs*

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*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”— Matt. xviii. 20*

What an encouraging declaration is this of our Jesus, to prompt the faithful to meet together on the Lord’s day; or in short, any day, at all times, and all places. Observe, my soul, how sweet the Lord speaks; ‘There am I in the midst of my people; not by my word only, not as represented in ordinances, not by the ministry of my servants, but I myself spiritually. The calls, the motions of grace felt in the heart, the tender tokens, the manifestations of my suitableness, fulness, and all-sufficiency; these are all truly mine, which, by the influences of my Spirit, I communicate among you.’ Oh, precious, condescending Lord, now we see what it is that constitutes a true gospel church— even thy presence. Thou art the beauty and glory of it; and from thee alone all power and efficacy is derived. Thy churches are, indeed, as thou hast taught, the golden candlesticks; and thy ministers are as stars in thy right hand. But the candlesticks have no light, until thou, by thy presence, enlighten them; neither do thy servants, the ministers, hold forth the light of thy word profitably, until thou openest the heart, as

thou didst poor Lydia's, to receive the things delivered, to the salvation of the soul. Ye ministers of my God! draw all your comfort and encouragement, amidst all the difficulties you meet with, both from within and without, in your: sacred service, from this sweet assurance of Jesus. Whenever you go up to the assemblies of God's people, hear the footsteps of your Master behind you. And ye, who pant after sweet fellowship and communion with Jesus, seek it by the footsteps of the flock, beside the shepherd's tents, where Jesus feeds his sheep. Who would be absent from that blessed place where Jesus comes to bless? And Oh, what encouragement to the faithful to bring with them their unawakened friends and relations to the assemblies which Jesus honours with his presence. Surely he who wrought salvation in our hearts, can work the same in theirs. No wonder, when such mercies Jesus brings with him to his people, that the heart of David fainted to go up to the house of the Lord, that he might see the power and glory of Jesus, as he had seen it in the sanctuary. Robert Hawker



### BUT GOD

*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Romans 6:17*

If you have not come to faith in Jesus Christ and do not know the forgiveness of sins that God offers, the phrase "But God" should terrify you. It means God has been patient with you thus far in your ignorance and sin, but he will not always be so. One day he will show himself holy and just toward you, and he will punish your sins. The apostle Paul used the phrase "But God" to speak of unbelievers in his day as well. After describing a list of sins they had committed, he said their actions served "as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But God's wrath has come upon them at last!" (1 Thessalonians 2:16). For the one who does not know Christ, "But God" means judgment and wrath, not salvation and joy. Therefore, take heed. Run to Christ. He will welcome you. Casey Lute in *But God*



### We need the Holy Spirit

It is impossible to overestimate the significance of the Spirit of God for the lives of Christians. In the words of Jesus, the Spirit is the "living water" who satisfies our deepest desires with the streams of Christ's redemptive glory (John 4:10-14; 7:37-39). Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) said, "The sum of the blessings Christ sought, by what he did and suffered in the work of redemption, was the Holy Spirit." Christ died to take away the curse and to give us the Spirit (Gal. 3:13-14). This emphasis on the Spirit, if handled biblically, does not detract from the glory of Christ. The Spirit is the glorifier of Christ (John 16:14). Just as His Person cannot be separated from the Father and the Son in the blessed Trinity, so His work is essential to the salvation of those whom the Father chose and the Son purchased by His precious blood.