

If we are cut loose from the anchor of God's Word, we will not be free. We will be slaves of personal passions and popular trends. John Piper

Genuine love is at stake if we lose the universal uniqueness and supremacy of Jesus as the only way to God. "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). But, oh, what a wrong we do to our neighbor if we neglect to take him the message that, by faith in Jesus, he will have everlasting life (John 3:16). The world will tell you that you are arrogant, not loving, if you spread the message of Jesus's saving work as the only way to God. But God calls it love. John Piper

THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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34. Q. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit (2 Tim. 1:9; 2 Thess. 2:13, 14), whereby convincing us of our sin and misery (Acts 2:37), enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ (Acts 26:18), and renewing our wills (Ez. 36:26, 27), he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel (John 6:44, 45; Phil. 2:13).

35. Q. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification (Rom. 8:30), adoption (Eph. 1:5), sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them (1 Cor. 1:30).

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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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THIS IS NOT YOUR REST

*Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.
Micah 2:10*

Men are by nature settlers. The term had been often used in reference to those who moved to a yet undeveloped territory and there to establish residence. Often several such people landing at a certain location were collectively called settlers. Many started out with a more distant goal in mind only to be attracted to someplace along the way or become disillusioned or discouraged and simply stopped. These thoughts remind us that as God’s children in this world, we are pilgrims and strangers and that our goal is yet before us. We should be reminded of the fact that there is much along the way that suggests that this would be a good place to stop and these things appeal to this fleshly tendency to settle. We are reminded of the assessment of the prophet who wrote: *Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came! Amos 6:1.*

The context of this statement is plain. The various offences are essentially characterized as pollutions and the end result is declared. Destruction was declared to be inevitable. Yet, in the midst of this declaration comes this exhortation that would be sensed by those who were spiritually capable of understanding its significance. Robert Hawker stands somewhat alone in stating that this passage should be addressed separately from the context. He saw it as suitable to be considered with several issues both in the Old and New Testaments.

Some would see this as “spiritualizing” text in that the reference here is clearly to the land itself. But, the application is clear in that the land was not the rest, but the Lord who gave it. They had clearly polluted the place with their idolatry and disobedience as they went about to find comfort in their own ways.

It is interesting that we find so much concerning the land as the promised possession. And furthermore there is much with regard to the promise of rest to the people. We are reminded of: *And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. Exodus 33:14.* And the apparent realization as we read later: *And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. Joshua 21:44.* It was never the intention of the Lord that they should be at rest in the Land apart from Him and His presence. Finding themselves secure in the Land they begin to seek to “improve” their situation and find happiness in that which cannot endure and the end result was a polluted land and they were the pollution. It has been well said that “man is the only creature that befouls his own nest.” Such is that which occurs when personal satisfaction is sought apart from the Lord. All that is not derived from Him and enjoyed in His presence and fellowship is polluted and is no place of rest for the true believer. In fact the declaration is that the very things sought after

destroy the ones who seek after it.

The condemnation from the prophet is, *For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. Isaiah 30:15.* Yet this is precisely the state of those who hear His voice and follow Him. We are being constantly called away from and weaned from this present world. *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: Galatians 1:4.* The strong implication here is that we are delivered from the enticements of this world and the tendency to settle. The call is to arise and depart! The whole of this world and all that pertains to it is polluted. The whole creation groans under the burden of sin which characterizes it all. *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. Romans 8:22.*

The place of our rest is not a physical location or a set of circumstances. The precious call of Christ is to: *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:28-29.*

How precious it is that we come to Him and receive both an immediate rest and a discovered rest. That is, we receive the immediate realization of salvation and deliverance by the one who calls us. *For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Hebrews 4:3.* O, the efficacy of the precious blood of Christ! But, it doesn't stop there in that in fellowship with Him we grow in the comfort and consolation of His care. We find refreshing and delight in His presence. We are given peace and assurance by knowledge that we have redemption in Him. These things become living truth and joy by the life-giving and life-sustaining work of the Holy Spirit.

So it is that we are warned away from all that would entice us to "settle" in this world or anything that suggests that we "settle" for the things of this world. *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. bhs*

DUTY OF PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE WORLD

Amos 4:12.—Prepare to meet thy God. 2 Cor 4:18. We look not at the things which are seen and temporal, but at the things which are unseen and eternal. The people of God have ever been strangers and pilgrims in the earth. Though in the world, they are not of the world; and, both by their professions and their deportment, they declare plainly, that they seek another country, as their final home. Hence, they walk not according to the course of this world, and are deaf to its enticements, and appear to have their eyes fixed on objects that the world sees not. So Moses endured, as seeing him who is invisible. [Heb 11:27] So he turned his back on the pleasures of sin and the treasures of Egypt, and had respect unto the recompense of the reward, to be obtained in the future world. So patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, have lived for eternity, and have left their testimony to mankind, that they were not of this world, and that their treasure, their hearts, and their final home to which they journeyed, were in heaven. These examples call on us for imitation, and, if we possess the wisdom and spirit by which they were actuated, we too shall make it the business of our lives, to prepare for the future world. The precepts of revelation call on us to

prepare for eternity. "Prepare to meet thy God." [Amos 4:12] "Set your affections on things above." [Col 3:2] "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." [Matt 6:19-21] "O that they were wise, that they would consider their latter end." [Deut 32:29] All revelation calls as with one voice, as with a voice from heaven, a voice of warning, exhortation, and earnest entreaty, to quit this perishing world, to flee from the wrath to come, to lay hold on eternal life, and to seek a continuing city, an enduring portion, in the world to come. With reference to this future world, every duty is enjoined, every promise made, every motive presented, and he whose eye is not steadfastly fixed on that world, has no reason to hope that he will secure the inheritance of the saints. Since the motives to holiness, and to diligence in the pursuit of it, are drawn so abundantly from the future world, a knowledge of that world is of great importance to all men. Every man knows that the time of his continuance on earth is short and uncertain; and while fully assured that he must leave this world, and that the time of his departure is just at hand, to make no inquiry concerning the world to which he is going, or to disregard authentic information concerning it, and the means of obtaining happiness there, is folly in the extreme. It is therefore wise to study the doctrine concerning the future world, and to study it as a subject of momentous personal interest. At every step in our progress, we should ask, how does this truth affect my heart? Am I so running as to obtain? Are my prospects clear? Ought I not to renew my diligence, and to seek more earnestly the guidance and help needed, that I may finish my course with joy? John Dagg *Manual of Theology*



The Sure Hope of Resurrection

Our society holds to youthfulness with a white-knuckled grip. Ultimately it's all in vain. But the gospel promises us eternal youthfulness in God's presence. In our society many people look to cosmetic surgeries, implants, and other methods to remodel their crumbling bodies. We hold to youthfulness with a white-knuckled grip. Ultimately it's all in vain. But the gospel promises us eternal health, beauty, and happiness in the presence of our God and our spiritual family. It's not ours now—but it will be, in the resurrection. In reference to the coming resurrection, Paul wrote, "But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently" (Romans 8:24–25). To many of us, "hope" sounds wishful and tentative, but biblical hope means to anticipate with trust. We expect a sure thing, purchased on the Cross, accomplished and promised by an all-knowing God. "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous" (Psalm 139:14, NLT). If our fallen bodies are so marvelous, as David recognizes, how much more will we praise God for our resurrection bodies? Will our eyes be able to function alternately as telescopes and microscopes? Will we be able to see new colors? Will our sense of smell be far more acute, in a world where all smells will be good? Perhaps. I can't wait to find out! Perspectives from God's Word "O death, where is your victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live'" (John 11:25). Perspectives from God's People "Peter was made to walk on water in his old body. Imagine what Christ will enable you to do in your new one?" —Larry Dick "No other religion, no other philosophy promises new bodies, hearts, and minds. Only in the Gospel of Christ do hurting people find such incredible hope." —Joni Eareckson Tada

Randy Alcorn *Seeing the Unseen*