

"Afflictions are sent for this end, to bring us to the throne of grace, to teach us to pray, and to make the Word of God's grace precious to us. It has always been to the advantage of God's people to be afflicted. Many are taught with the briars and thorns of affliction, who would not learn otherwise." (Matthew Henry)

"If this experimental acquaintance with the Bible is the result of affliction--then welcome the discipline whose rod of correction blossoms into such golden fruit! Let God's dealings with us be ever so dark, painful, and afflicting--it is utterly impossible that anything can be against the best interests of a believer in Christ." (Octavius Winslow)

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)

47. Q. What is the sum of the ten commandments?

A. The sum of the ten commandments is, to love the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbour as ourselves (Mt. 22:37-40).

48. Q. What is the preface to the ten commandments?

A. The preface to the ten commandments is in these words; I am the Lord thy God which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage (Ex. 20:2).

49. Q. What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

A. The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us that because God is the Lord, and our God and redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments (Luke 1:74, 75; 1 Pet. 1:15-19).

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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 BURDEN OF PREACHING

*So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.
Nehemiah 8:8*

At several points in Old Testament history we read of a recovering of attention to the Law and the reading of the Word of God. Preeminence was given to the Law of the God in the reign of Jehoshaphat in that they who taught Judah had “the book of the Law of the Lord with them.” The result was that the fear of the Lord came upon all the kingdoms around them. Even the Philistines brought tribute to Jehoshaphat. Of course we witness the effects as well when the Word of God is neglected. *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: Amos 8:11.* Where there is no attention, hearing and respect to the Word of the Almighty One, there is no standing among the nations. It is that which we witness in our Land today. Once highly respected by many and feared by her enemies the USA is looked upon with distrust and disdain. While the security and dignity of the country is being eroded, it seems that the only things the people are concerned about are the protection of the immoral and perverse and the assurance that the right to murder babies is secure. There is a latent threat that if reading the Word of God seems to express contempt for these things it may be declared illegal.

At a time when spirituality was at relatively low ebb in the returning nation of Israel we read of a most beautiful occurrence. The time was the Feast of Tabernacles which was to be a time

of remembrance, thanksgiving and celebration. The people of various groups and locations gathered themselves together and spoke to Ezra the Scribe to bring the book of the Law. Perhaps they were looking to a symbolic exhibition of the Law, but Ezra caused it to be read. And so it was for hours the people stood and listened intently as Ezra and the Levites read and read the inspired word. The people were assembled and Ezra mounted a pulpit of wood and began by blessing “the Lord, the Great God.” The people cried Amen! Amen! and bowed their heads and worshiped with their face to the ground. And so they read in the book of the Law of God.

It is here that we observe a time honored and Godly method of dealing with the Word of God. There are three elements given to what transpired here and it is a pattern worthy of emulation. The fact that they read “distinctly” indicates that this was more than a casual reading. Going beyond they gave the sense and would thereby render further clarification. Added emphasis is seen in that they caused the people to understand. Certainly there is a degree of either overlap or meshing of these things and one properly attended to may imply that the others must follow.

It is certain that Ezra and the others gave attention to proper enunciation of the words they spoke from this Holy Book. They would have understood that this was no ordinary book or a collection of the ideas of men. It had been

inspired by none other than the Holy Spirit and was revered by them as such. In fact many of the things they were reading had been originally written by the very finger of God. Both reader and hearer understood that this was indeed distinct from any other means of communication they might receive. This was God's message to them and they were His people. There would have been neither doubt nor speculation as to what was transpiring. They were at attention as if the Lord Himself was personally speaking to them. Indeed this is what is happening at every reading of His Word and yet there is a famine of hearing in our Land.

They gave the sense of it. The readers and teachers labored to be sure that the words being read were in their proper context. They were not adding to or enhancing that word in any way. They were making application in such a way as to prevent a concept that would have led to idolizing the mere words; but rather that they sense them and believe them as living truths. This was what had happened with the Scribes and Pharisees during our Lord's earthly ministry. There were two grave errors. First they turned their knowledge of the scriptures into a source of pride in themselves rather than to humbly submit to its precepts and principles. Secondly, they had forced interpretations of their own onto the words so that they were giving status to their traditions: *And he said unto them, Full*

well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. Mark 7:9. Our Lord summarized the true "sense" of the Word both Old Testament and New. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. John 5:39.

The Apostle Paul urged the Gospel necessity upon all to whom he preached. *Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. 2 Corinthians 5:11.* Perhaps it is a lack of urgency and a sense of necessity that leaves people indifferent to the Word of God. These words are critical. Our Lord declared: *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63.* It is incumbent upon us that we exhaust every means to make men understand! Enough said!

The result of the Word being so handled was repentance. A time of celebration became a time of weeping. (See v. 9). The word applied convicts, but joy soon comes as forgiveness is realized and true rejoicing and thanksgiving follows. The people were encouraged to feast and given precious assurance in declaring to them: "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength." *bhs*

From *But God* by Casey Lute

Because God has worked throughout history to accomplish salvation for us, and because he has promised to secure that salvation in us through the perseverance he bestows, we can count on him to continue working in our lives. The "But God" statements of Scripture do not represent the only times God has worked. He has worked in all believers at all times, and he continues to work today: "for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). This means that we should recognize as believers that "But God" is a constant in our lives. We should believe like Joseph, who, after enduring trouble at the hands of his brothers, told them, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). When we face various difficulties—sickness, hardship, poverty, arguments—

can say with Paul: “our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us” (2 Corinthians 7:5–6). When we engage in ministry efforts and see God’s blessing on them, we can say something like this: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6). When God heals us or others we know from illness or disease, we should echo Paul’s sentiments about Epaphroditus: “Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him” (Philippians 2:27a).



SELF-EXAMINATION

The Ultimate Benchmark for Self-Examination: Do We Love the Son of God? Sincere love for the Lord Jesus Christ is always the crucial litmus test of religious experience. After all, love for God’s Son is the mark of all marks of grace. That alone conclusively confirms that the love of the Father has truly been shed abroad in our hearts. However, God’s Word is equally clear that we cannot lay claim to loving the Lord Jesus Christ unless we demonstrate our love for Him by keeping His commandments. If we truly love the Living Word, the Father’s beloved Son, we endeavor to honor Him by seeking to live in obedience to the written Word. True Christians always love the Scriptures precisely because they bear witness to the Living Word, Jesus Christ. This fully agrees with the love that functions within them, for He is the object of their love. It should come as no surprise that the more we love and honor the Son, the more the Father is delighted—for the Father loves the Son! Jesus Himself testifies of this when He says, “He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father” (John 14:21). After all, the Father regenerates sinners by His Spirit so that they might know, love, honor, and serve His Son. He wants His children to resemble His eternal Son in their disposition, words, and actions; He will not rest until, by His Spirit, they are conformed to the image of His Son. As we observed earlier, that is the great goal of predestination (Rom. 8:29). Joel Beeke



Chastity - What a rare word!

When was the last time you heard anyone use it? It is a word that causes some to become enraged, because they have long ago thrown chastity away. It is a word others blush to use, because chastity is cherished by few, despised by most, and a thing commonly unknown. But God the Holy Ghost tells all mothers to teach their daughters to be "chaste" homemakers and obedient wives, loving their husbands and loving their children. Young ladies cherish, protect, and promote chastity. Virginity is a thing to be kept as a gift to your husband. Virginity is virtuous. Fornication is filthy. Chastity is character. Adultery is abominable. Fortner

A holy man will follow after humility. He will desire, in lowliness of mind, to esteem all others better than himself. He will see more evil in his own heart--than in any other in the world.

He will understand something of Abraham’s feeling, when he says, "I am dust and ashes!"

And Jacob’s feeling, when he says, "I am unworthy of the least of all Your mercies!"

And Job’s feeling, when he says, "Behold! I am vile!" J. C. Ryle