

"We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him!" Learn how little cause we have then to be discontented at outward trials and afflictions! What! Shall we be discontented at that which works for our good? If one friend should throw a bag of money at another, and in throwing it, should graze his head, he would not be troubled much, seeing by this means he had got a bag of money. So the Lord may bruise us by afflictions--but it is to enrich us. These afflictions work for us an exceeding weight of glory--and shall we be discontented?" (Thomas Watson)

THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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58. Q. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain (Ex. 20:7).

59. Q. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names (Mt. 6:9; Deut. 28:58), titles (Ps. 68:4), attributes (Rev. 15:3, 4), ordinances, (Mal. 1: 11, 14), word (Ps. 136: 1, 2) and works (Job 36:24).

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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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THAT WHICH BELONGS TO US

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29

There are many passages of scripture that become widely applied as catch-all statements that avoid context and escape reality. Some will just call out chapter and verse rather than engage with the passage. One such verse is Romans 8:28. In a seemingly pious and reverent manner many will acknowledge the wisdom and graciousness of God in causing His providence to work for the good of His people by simply saying I believe Romans 8:28. Why not commit it to memory and say it fully and meditate upon it as we do. *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.* Some would resist the challenge of searching out “the deep things of God,” howbeit by the Holy Spirit, by simply saying, “I believe Deuteronomy 29:29. Again, two profound things are set before us here just as surely as Moses had set before the children of Israel “blessing and cursing” and the attendant results of each. It is certain that the first part indicates content too wonderful for us to possess or contain. But, the second declares that there is much to which we should give devoted attendance to by searching the Word, seeking His face and praying for ability to be in the way of true fellowship with Him. While we wonder and worship at the thought of the first part, we must be given to know those things revealed in the second part.

This is not apart from the desire of true believers which is to know God better and

better. Our Lord taught the Apostles that loving Him and keeping His commandments were inseparable with them. Indeed, how could we not treasure all that we have received as a result of such love as He has manifested to His people? And, how could we claim to love one so dearly and be in contempt of that which pleases them? And so, here at the end of a lengthy discourse concerning the required obedience under the Law Moses puts those things in a perspective that is foreign to many. The things the Lord has revealed belong to us and that not aside from purpose. The great error of Old Testament Israel was that they pledged allegiance to a Law they could not keep and disdained a true devotion and love of the Lord which was essential to life with Him. So it is today that many look at the divine precepts as a performance standard while the intent of the Lord is that they should possess these things and so treasure them as from Him and as the means to know and love Him.

There has always been a consciousness of the unsearchableness of God. The Psalmist would so praise the Lord: *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalms 145:3.* The Apostle Paul would praise God thusly: *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Romans 11:33.* And he was filled with wonder as he wrote, Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the

Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; Ephesians 3:8. Such passages indicate that there is an infinite amount of perfect knowledge and wisdom that God in His wisdom has determined that men should not know. His being and existence is beyond us. *Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? Job 11:7.* We would not complain but be comforted that it is so as we read, *He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. Ecclesiastes 3:11.* One of the greatest undiscoverable “secret things” to true believers is the reason that He saved me!

In thinking upon that which is to be possessed by the redeemed we would remember the great vistas that are opened up to the eyes of God-given, Christ-authored faith. We have no barriers thrown up before us like those at Mount Sinai which were crossed on pain of death. Joshua was told that “every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you...” The words of our Lord were not spoken in a coded or difficult language. The difficulty lies with the listener whose heart is blinded against the revelation of the Glorious

Gospel of Christ. Those things which are and were perceived as oppressive and restrictive rules are to the child of God descriptions of the things they desire to render up in service to the One they love and whose commandments they possess. His promises are not matters of wishful thinking. They are rather possessions to be claimed but are just as sure as what they already have. How delightfully we read, *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Corinthians 1:20.* How joyfully do we possess Christ, Himself and realize that no promise or anything we desire is separated from He who is the greatest possession of all.

And so, we go on in search of all that we possess and discover Christ in it all. We search the scriptures which reveal Christ to us as ours. We are sweetly reminded: *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15.* With the engrafted Word as our possession we would aspire to be doers and not hearers only. If indeed “We have the mind of Christ...” it follows that we would have His motive – to please the Father! *bhs*

Elsewhere the psalmist speaks about a passionate yearning for God that can only be compared to the relentless search for water by a thirsty deer (Ps. 42:1–2; 63:1). We are to “taste and see that the LORD is good” (Ps. 34:8) and to find in Him “exceeding joy” (Ps. 43:4). After Jesus revealed His identity to the two disciples on the Emmaus road, they exclaimed: “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:32). Their minds were enlightened to understand, and they felt the effects of it in their whole being. This is what I call a case of “spiritual heartburn”! But whatever you do, don’t take a Tums! Enjoy the heat! What did they feel? Perhaps they experienced a rapid heartbeat, chills down their spine, maybe even bodily weakness that made it difficult to stand erect. Their breathing may have quickened as they began to feel light-headed. Perhaps they trembled and wept and rejoiced. Does your heart “burn” within when you think of God singing in love over you? It should. It’s OK. God wants it to. Deep down inside I suspect you want it to also. God longs for you to feel deep and lasting satisfaction in Him. That is the principal way He is glorified in you. So enjoy Him. Receive His love for you and revel in it. Let His affection for your soul lift you to unknown heights of spiritual ecstasy. Honor Him by being happy in Him. --Sam Storms *The Singing God*

The One in Charge

The God of providence weaves together millions of details into our lives. His thoughts and ways are far above ours. We are not the cosmic center—God is. He holds the universe, and each of us, in His gravity. When we make ourselves the center of gravity, we attempt to hold God in orbit around us. Then we draw false conclusions, including, whenever we don't get our way, it must mean God isn't really there. God is the source of all good and the standard by which good is measured. We may not like what God does, but we're in no position to accuse him of wrongdoing. Every breath He gives us is a gift. But if you want to hear Him say He cares about you, and sympathizes with you, listen to what He says to His people: "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him" (Psalm 103:13). The God of providence weaves millions of details into our lives and the lives around us. Maybe He doesn't have one big reason for bringing a certain person, success, failure, disease or accident into our lives; God may have hundreds of little reasons. In order to understand His explanations, we'd have to be God. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD" (Isaiah 55:8, NIV). Perspectives from God's Word "For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God" (Psalm 86:10). "Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine" (Job 41:11). Perspectives from God's People "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." —A. W. Tozer "He who demands a reason from God is not in a fit state to receive it." —Charles Spurgeon

--Randy Alcorn *Seeing the Unseen*

WONDER AND AWESOME FEAR

And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. —Exodus 34:8 I have said it before and I will say it again: This low concept of God is our spiritual problem today. Mankind has succeeded quite well in reducing God to a pitiful nothing! The God of the modern context is no God at all. He is simply a glorified chairman of the board, a kind of big businessman dealing in souls. The God portrayed in much of our church life today commands very little respect. We must get back to the Bible and to the ministration of God's Spirit to regain a high and holy concept of God. Oh, this awesome, terrible God, the dread of Isaac! This God who made Isaiah cry out, "I am undone!" (Isaiah 6:5). This God who drove Daniel to his knees in honor and respect. To know the Creator and the God of all the universe is to revere Him. It is to bow down before Him in wonder and awesome fear. Lord, I'm struck this morning with a sense of awe in Your presence. I bow before You in "wonder and awesome fear." Amen. --A. W. Tozer

The study of religious truth ought to be undertaken and prosecuted from a sense of duty, and with a view to the improvement of the heart. When learned, it ought not to be laid on the shelf, as an object of speculation; but it should be deposited deep in the heart, where its sanctifying power ought to be felt. To study theology, for the purpose of gratifying curiosity, or preparing for a profession, is an abuse and profanation of what ought to be regarded as most holy. To learn things pertaining to God, merely for the sake of amusement, or secular advantage, or to gratify the mere love of knowledge, is to treat the Most High with contempt. John Dagg