

Shaping Our Words after His

To have lasting value and impact, our words must be touched and shaped by God's words. The power of the words we speak is far greater than we realize. "Life and death is in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21). God gives me no task except that which requires my dependence on Him to do it. Therefore, there is nothing I should regard as automatic. No conversation should be on auto-pilot. I need to ask for His guidance, His wisdom and His empowerment so my words please Him; so I will not have to account for careless words on the Day of Judgment. If we want our words to have lasting value and impact, they need to be touched and shaped by God's words. That will happen as we make an ongoing daily choice to expose our minds to Scripture, to meet with Christ, and let Him rub off on us.

Randy Alcorn *Seeing the Unseen*

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)

78. Q. Which is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is, Thou shalt not steal (Ex. 20:15).

79. Q. What is required in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others (Gen. 30:30; 1 Tim. 5:8; Lev. 25:35; Deut. 22:1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Ex. 23:4, 5; Gen. 47:14, 20).

80. Q. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own (1 Tim. 5:8; Pr. 28:19) or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate (Pr. 21:17, and 23:20, 21; Eph. 4:28).

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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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AS FOR ME

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. Psalms 17:15

The phrase, “as for me,” is often a declaration of separation from others to whom one might be compared. It is often necessary that we assert that we simply cannot “go along with the crowd” and that understood on many fronts. We are often confronted with the demand that we make adjustments for fear that we offend someone. The pressure is often to tone down the speech and leave off certain portions of scripture. I once had a preacher tell me that he believed the doctrines of God’s sovereign grace but that he would not preach those precious truths because they offend some people. We sense the pressure that seems to come from the crowds whose objective is self-promotion. They would suggest that their way is the best because of the appearance of visible results. Yet, we would heed the warning of John to “try the spirits to see if they be of God.” God has never been swayed by popular opinion or attraction. We search in vain in the Word of God for any pattern that might justify the operations of popular contemporary religion. As we behold such ever-widening trends in religion and godlessness among men and open opposition to God in governments we are the more constrained to declare with David, “As for me...”

We are quickly reminded of this declaration of Joshua. He challenged Israel to serve the Lord and if that seemed evil to them then they should choose between two forms of heathen worship. While Joshua, no doubt, loved Israel, his objective was made clear: “...as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.” The message

from both David and Joshua was that they had a singular objective and that was to worship and serve the Lord without regard to what others might do and in spite of all that would conspire to prevent it.

It is to be understood that individual believers are to see themselves fully identified with the body of Christ. Certainly in that sense we are part of a vast number of the redeemed of the Lord. We are together partakers of the divine nature and as such are being unerringly brought into conformity to the image of our Blessed Lord. How we delight in the evidence seen in the common claims to the promises in Christ by the brethren. There is given us precious indicators of the love of Christ present in true believers across time and space. Perhaps, in that sense we are one of the crowd. We rejoice as our Lord contemplates His people and declares that He is not ashamed to call them brethren. We are taught to pray in identity with each other and so we say “Our Father...” But, for all this our Lord has preserved in each of His beloved their individual identity. And so, we are each able to declare, “As for me.”

It is not only fitting that we should make such personal assertions but it may also be necessary. In the midst of the congregation the “Amen” that is stated in response to the declaration of the glory of God in Christ is echoed in the hearts of the many and we rejoice that it is so. But, there are those times when we are cut out from the comforts of the flock. There are those times which call for a personal word of

commitment and devotion to our Lord. It would seem that just such a time was upon David and his recourse was to reaffirm the personification of hope in his Lord. It appears that David expressed a current determination and a future hope each secured by the presence of the Lord. We are reminded of the words of Paul regarding a dynamic relationship with Christ. *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18.* It has been asserted by some that long-married couples begin to look alike. I don't think that physical appearances actually change so much as the countenances of each are altered. In that they are so given to each other, manners and appearances seem to merge. But, of a certainty in beholding the face of our Lord, in His word, by God given faith, in our prayers and meditations the likeness emerges. Even as, *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6.* The child of God desires no other!

There is an ever increasing joy and satisfaction in the hearts of believers as they

behold their Lord. As we think upon the great love wherewith He has loved us we are moved the more to understand both the power of God and the wisdom of God. Thomas was a doubter until he saw the tokens of his redemption. It was then it became very personal and he declared, "My Lord and my God." It was the determination of David to ever be beholding the face of His Lord. *Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. Psalms 65:4.*

That increasing satisfaction shall become full as we awake with His likeness. While inhabiting a ravaged body Job confidently declared: *And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. Job 19:26-27.* I believe that Job and David and John expected to be in a complete likeness of Christ having been ridden of the hindrances and made fully capable of full vision and worship. It is to us even now to behold the face of our righteous Lord and claim the hope of David that "maketh not ashamed." *bhs*

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep — and My sheep know Me." — John 10:14 "The Good Shepherd" — well can the sheep who know His voice, attest the truthfulness and faithfulness of this endearing name and word. Where would they have been through eternity — had He not left His throne of light and glory, traveling down to this dark valley of the curse, and giving His life a ransom for them? Think of His love to each separate member of the flock — wandering over pathless wilds with unwearied patience and unquenchable ardor, ceasing not the pursuit — until He finds it. Think of His love now — "I AM the Good Shepherd." Still that tender eye of watchfulness following the guilty wanderers — the glories of Heaven and the songs of angels unable to dim or alter His affection — the music of the words, at this moment coming as sweetly from His lips as when first He uttered them, "I know My sheep." Every individual believer — the weakest, the weariest, the faintest — claims His attention. His loving eye follows me day by day out to the wilderness — marks out my pasture, studies my needs, and trials, and sorrows, and perplexities — every steep ascent, every brook, every winding

path, every thorny thicket! "He goes before them." It is not rough driving — but gentle guiding. He does not take them over an unknown road; He Himself has trodden it before. He has drunk of every "brook by the way;" He Himself has "suffered being tempted;" He is "able to support those who are tempted." He seems to say, "Fear not! I cannot lead you wrong; follow Me in the bleak wasteland, the blackened wilderness — as well as by the green pastures and the still waters. Do you ask why I have left the sunny side of the valley — carpeted with flowers, and bathed in sunshine — leading you to some high mountain alone, some cheerless spot of sorrow? Trust Me! I will lead you by paths you have not known — but they are all known to Me, and selected by Me — Follow Me!" "My sheep know Me!" Reader! can you subscribe to these closing words of this gracious utterance? Do you "know" Him in all the glories of His person — in all the completeness of His finished work — in all the tenderness and unutterable love of His every dealing towards you? It has been remarked by Palestine travelers, that not only do the sheep there follow the guiding shepherd — but even while eating the herbage as they go along, they look wistfully up to see that they are near him. Is this your attitude — "looking unto Jesus?" "In all your ways acknowledge Him — and He will direct your paths." Leave the future — to His providing. "The Lord is my Shepherd — I shall not lack." I shall not lack! — it has been beautifully called "the bleating of Messiah's sheep." Take it as your watchword during your wilderness wanderings, until grace is perfected in glory. Let this be the record of your simple faith and unwavering trust, "These are those who follow — wherever He sees fit to guide them." "His sheep follow Him — for they know His voice." --John MacDuff



When religious doctrine is regarded merely as an object of speculation, the mind is not content with the simple truth as it is in Jesus, but wanders after unprofitable questions, and becomes entangled in difficulties, from which it is unable to extricate itself. Hence arises the skepticism of many. Truth, which would sanctify and save the soul, they willfully reject, because it will not gratify all their curiosity, and solve all their perplexities. They act as the husbandman would, who should reject the whole science of agriculture, and refuse to cultivate his grounds, because there are many mysteries in the growth of plants, which he cannot explain.

If we set out, in our search for religious truth, from a sense of duty, and with the purpose of making the best possible use of it, we may hope for success. The Lord will bless our efforts; for he has promised, "if any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine." [John 7:17] As we advance, we shall find out all that is necessary for any practical purpose; and the sense of duty, under which we proceed, will not drive us beyond this point. John Dagg



George Matheson was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on March 27, 1842. By the age of eighteen he was totally blind. Notwithstanding this disability, he went on to become a brilliant biblical scholar, pastor, and preacher. Matheson was engaged to be married until his fiancée learned of his impending blindness. She left him. Needless to say, Matheson was devastated. The anguish inflicted by such fickle affection has the potential of souring our souls on God's love too. But not George Matheson. Following this tragedy, he wrote one of the most touching hymns of the nineteenth century. The first verse says it all: O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be. Sam Storms *The Singing God*