

If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation.

If truth is not diffused--error will be.

If God and His Word are not known and received--the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy.

If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet--the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will.

If the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land--then anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness--will reign without mitigation or end! –Daniel Webster 1823

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)

95. Q. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence (Pr. 8:34), preparation (1 Pet. 2:1, 2), and prayer (Ps. 119:18); receive it with faith and love (Heb. 4:2; 2 Thes. 2:10), lay it up in our hearts (Ps. 119:18), and practice it in our lives (Luke 8:15; James 1:25).

96. Q. How do baptism and the Lords supper become effectual means of salvation?

A. Baptism and the Lords supper become effectual means of salvation, not for any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them, but only by the blessing of Christ (1 Pet. 3:21; Mt. 3:11; 1 Cor. 3:6, 7), and the working of the Spirit in those that by faith receive them (1 Cor. 12:3; Mt. 28:19).

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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

Volume 8, No. 37

September 13, 2015

BUT AFTER THAT

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Titus 3:4

Arthur Pink aptly observed that “Two things always go together in the experience of a genuine believer: a growing discovery of the vileness of self, and a deepening appreciation of the preciousness of Christ.” It is doubtful that such a conscious contrast exists in the minds of many, even though the descriptions of it in scripture are graphic and emphatic. Paul described the change occurring with believers as a deliverance from the power of darkness and a translation into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13). In Ephesians 2 Paul wrote of those dead in trespasses and sins being quickened. To the Corinthians Paul pictured the unsaved as blinded by the God of this world. Peter describes the Lord’s people as those whom God had called “out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Indeed, everywhere we see the change that occurs in conversion as drastic, miraculous and evident to the believer and those who observe him. In short, the difference between what we were and what we became after the “kindness and love of God our Savior” appears is infinitely profound.

Casey Lute in his book *But God* offered this introductory thought: “To the left of ‘But God’ in Scripture appear some of the worst human atrocities, characterized by disobedience and rebellion. To the left of ‘But God’ is hopelessness, darkness and death. But to its right, following ‘But God,’ readers of Scripture will find hope, light, and life. Following God’s intervention, the story becomes one of grace, righteousness, and justice.” The divine

intervention described in this passage is nothing short of the New Birth. It is the new creation in Christ of which Paul wrote. While many refer to a life changing experience, the Scripture teaches the appearance of life totally separated from the old. In that it is a life “hid with Christ in God” it has no attachment in origin or essence. Salvation comes as the result of a divine intervention wherein the Spirit of God, on the merits of the substitutionary life, death, burial and resurrection of Christ imparts that which is born of incorruptible seed.

It would seem that Paul was often reminded of the life that he pursued on the “left side” of “But God.” He did not hesitate to employ such a thought to emphasize the greatness of the grace of God in delivering him up to a life of eternal identity with Christ. Here he would address a problem with the Jews of Crete who were given to turbulent contempt for heathen government. Such behavior was and still is counter to the principles of life in Christ. The “that” to which Paul referred is the manner of behavior that had been his lot and that of all believers in their past. So he writes to Titus and uses “we” with the clear message that the difference between them and bondage of the sin was the grace of God manifested in the regenerating work of the Spirit of God. After “that” something miraculous and marvelous had occurred. Paul confessed that he had been saved “by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

How easy it is to forget that such has happened in the experience of all true believers.

That is, we become comfortable in this new life in Christ while failing to fully comprehend the infinite difference that has been made. It is never profitable to “camp” in the regret of the past. But, it is important that we remember. As the songwriter put it: “What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart.” We may look at the verse following and be reminded of essential fact with regard to our salvation. It is not according to our works in that all our works have been discovered as putrid in the sight and sense of God. It is an act of mercy since nothing recommending us to the favor of God is to be found. We learn that it is not a reformation that is needed – “we must be saved.” Since all things, with regard to our old nature, have been rejected, nothing short of a new creation will suffice to render us washed, clean, and acceptable in His sight. This wonderful experience did not, however, come to us as a simple theological body of truth. It was the “kindness and love of God our Savior” that appeared. We are reminded again of: *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? Romans 2:4.*

Perhaps part of the intent of the Apostle was to remind Titus of what he had been so that he

might act more sympathetically toward them to whom he ministered. It is extremely difficult to one who cannot imagine life without Christ that so many look with contempt when the necessity of the Gospel is pressed upon them. Passages such as this one will have the effect of causing us to see ourselves as having been in the same frame as those who reject Christ and the Gospel. Such a thought will inevitably temper our approach to lost folks. There can be no compromise as to the Gospel and the whole counsel of God that is behind it. But, remembering what we were and that it was “after that” the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared will cause it to be presented in the same love with which it appeared to us.

The fact of being the object of the eternal love of God is a precious revelation to all who come to know Him. And, we are again reminded of this revelation to the prophet: *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31:3.* Having been so lovingly and graciously saved, how could we ever feel anything else toward those who are without? As we bear witness to the God of all grace we must be reminded that we may be involved in the appearing of that kindness of God. *bhs*

Am I Convinced By Christ?

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, ... but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven. — Luke 10:19,20

Jesus Christ says, in effect, Don't rejoice in successful service, but rejoice because you are rightly related to Me. The snare in Christian work is to rejoice in successful service, to rejoice in the fact that God has used you. You never can measure what God will do through you if you are rightly related to Jesus Christ. Keep your relationship right with Him, then whatever circumstances you are in, and whoever you meet day by day, He is pouring rivers of living water through you, and it is of His mercy that He does not let you know it. When once you are rightly related to God by salvation and sanctification, remember that wherever you are, you are put there by God; and by the reaction of your life on the circumstances around you, you will fulfil God's purpose, as long as you keep in the light as God is in the light.

The tendency to-day is to put the emphasis on service. Beware of the people who make usefulness their ground of appeal. If you make usefulness the test, then Jesus Christ was the greatest failure that ever lived. The lodestar of the saint is God Himself, not estimated usefulness. It is the work that God does through us that counts, not what we do for Him. All that Our Lord heeds in a man's life is the relationship of worth to His Father. Jesus is bringing many sons to glory. —Oswald Chambers

Many Antichrists Are in This World

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:18-19).

Have you ever heard the old adage: "You cannot see the forest for the trees?" Perhaps there is another: "You cannot see the antichrists because you are looking for the antichrist." Sometimes Christians are preoccupied or fixated on certain issues. In these dark days perhaps some are looking for the Antichrist but live among and accept the presence of multitudes of antichrists. Perhaps we need to do some spiritual reconnaissance. "All is not gold that glistens." John appears to be warning against what they had heard in the reality of what was their present situation-"there are now many antichrists."

Who is an antichrist? John records, "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also" (1 John 2:22-23). Antichrist's are liars and deceivers (2 John 7). An antichrist is also a denier of truth (2 John 9).

John is writing this to "little children" or "new born" or "immature Christians." Then by inspiration John pointed out-"it is the last time" or the last "hour." This is the eschatological finality (eschata hora estin). Is he saying that we are in the final hour? "Ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists." The prophetic expectation of the antichrist when surrounded by many antichrists is the picture here. The many antichrists are to be found in dishonest man-centered clergy, media personalities, political figures from the local to the national scene, educators with agnostic and antichrist agendas. They are on every hand. True Christianity is the only objectionable belief system in this culture while pseudo-Christianity and every pagan belief is accommodated. The Bible is a banned book from the public square in America. One of the first acts of congress in the new nation was to purchase Bibles for those who did not have them. The reason was that our Constitution would only work in a nation with Biblical morality. This has been rejected and the corruption is overwhelming!

Then John said by the Holy Spirit's guidance, "Whereby we know that it is the last time." "Whereby or for this reason we know it is the last hour." Nathanael Hardy, writing in his The First General Epistle of St. John the Apostle in 1656, declared:

We have swarms of antichrists among ourselves; so that this age, and land, and city of ours is become a sink of filthy and loathsome heresies, yea, which is the worst kind of antichristianism, pseudochristianism is the brand of our times, whilst all these antichrists pretend themselves to be the only Christians, yea, some of them assert themselves to be Christified and deified; nay, one of them is so sacrilegiously impudent as to style himself the Christ [302].

Oh, the dishonor that is done to Christ by believers peering through the darkness looking for the antichrist while being overrun with antichrists in their daily lives. Also, there is sacrilege done by those who desire to superimpose their ideas over Christ's. The Lord's people are sick of the blasphemies, heresies and dishonor perpetrated against our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We just need to be sure we realize and live in terms of our victorious Redeemer in the midst of a perverse and wicked world. Have you been brought to embrace Christ by faith? Our King Jesus is victorious! -Dr. H. R. Rumburg