

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: Ephesians 1:11
Fatalism implies that all events come to pass through the working of a blind, unintelligent, impersonal non-moral force which cannot be distinguished from physical necessity and carries us helplessly within its grasp as a mighty river carries a piece of wood.
Predestination teaches that from all eternity God has had one unified purpose which He is bringing to perfection through this world order of events. Loraine Boettner

GADSBY'S CATECHISM

by William Gadsby (about 1800)

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Question V. What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scriptures?

Answer. The Holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man is to believe concerning God, and what God requires of man.

Ecc. 12.13-14; Mic. 6.8; 2 Tim. 3.14-17.

Question VI. What is God?

Answer. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

Ex. 34. 5-7; Jn. 4.24; 1 Tim. 1.17 & 6.15-16; Heb. 12.29; Rev. 22.13.

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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. 48

November 29, 2015

PROFANED AMONG THEM

Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Ezekiel 22:26

The Apostle Paul attacked the pride of the Corinthians with the reminder that while they had been distinguished, it was not of their own doing: *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? 1 Corinthians 4:7.* We would certainly give heed to the warning with regard to pride, but we would not miss the fact that the Lord had made a distinction. We must be careful to maintain that we do not differ from others with regard to the need of grace, but we are to note that we are saved and constituted as gloriously different. How easily men posture themselves with regard to prosperity, ability, appearance, heritage and many other ways and think themselves better as a result. But the distinction of the Lord's people from the world is unlike any other distinction and that is because it is He who has made us to differ. We are reminded of: *But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel. Exodus 11:7*

It is to be feared that in that there continues from the day of Ezekiel the prophet until now another error that is also based in pride and a separation from God. The error here is that they have “put no difference between the Holy and the profane.” We have noted here a familiar charge issued against the religious leaders in the

Old Testament. According to Dr. Gill, it is not that they have merely violated the Law of God; rather it is that they had “forced it.” That is, they had given wrong explanations and with a view to making it say something else. Thus they taught things contrary to it in order to further their own cause and profit from their deceptions of the people. In keeping with that aim, they perverted and profaned the offerings and the sacrifices and convinced the people that all was in order. They intentionally blurred the lines between that which was of man and that which is of God.

No aspect of the Old Testament Law was made clearer than that regarding the clean and the unclean. From the time of the fall a distinction was made between animals that might be eaten and those that were forbidden. The ways in which a person could become unclean was well known by all and especially the priest who often had the task of deciding such matters. The law concerning lepers was very detailed. In all those things we witness pictures of the greater contamination of sin and sinfulness, and the sacrifices clearly pictured deliverance through the substitution of a sacrifice. The priests disregarded those things given as types and shadows so that they might profit from removing the distinctions. Thus, idolatry easily became the order of the day because the message of grace was silenced.

We now find that “political correctness” has

become the order of the day in not only secular circles but also in the realm of religion. There is no doubt that many who have become the open proponents of things patently unscriptural are using the same Bible. They have, however, discovered that by removing controversy with the world that large followings are gathered and the profits increase. In some cases it may be no more than making men feel good about themselves and large sums are spent in pursuit of feeling good about one's self. In other cases, the teachings of the Bible are construed in ways not remotely connected to the divine intent. So it is that those expressly forbidden are ordained to ministries, and practices called abominable in scripture are termed alternative lifestyles and in effect God is being told that He didn't get it quite right. The condemning element is that the governments of the world are openly standing with the perverse and against those who would stand firm in the truth. At no time has the world governments embraced that which is truly of God. The God of this world openly opposes and rails against anything that has the image and superscription of Christ upon it. "Neither have they showed the difference between the unclean and the clean."

So well had the religious leaders taught their perverted message that it became criminal to

oppose them. We witness the imprisonment and death of many of the prophets. If, today, we speak of the biblical teachings we are called fear-mongers and haters of mankind. Nothing could be further from the truth. Should we not attempt to warn them away from that which begs the judgment of God upon them? Not only it is that they have "put no difference between the Holy and the profane," but the Lord declares that "I am profaned among them!" Might He not rightfully ask, "Where is my fear?"

Herein is the true issue. Men are caught up in the promotion of organizations and systems that are of human origin and offering these unclean sacrifices to God. There is no fear and reverence of the Lord among them. It is rather that they think themselves to do it better and make more people "feel good" and so they offer the unfit and the profane and essentially demand of God that He accept them. They reject the idea that "this is my beloved Son I whom I am well pleased." It is rather "look at what I am doing and forget about the eternal Word of Truth." They did then and still do hide their eyes from that which God calls Holy. "Lord Sabaoth is His Name." They preach another gospel which is not another. See Galatians 1:6-7.
bhs

SOUL WINNING

It is a vast mistake to imagine that any bungler can do God's work. The soul is too delicate a thing to be mauled about by an unthinking man. The spirit is too sensitive to be dealt with otherwise than with the greatest care. Soul winning is a holy art, and he had need to study the soul well who thinks of trying to capture it for Christ. Merely hurling texts at the heads of hearers is not likely to result in any great blessing. Nor must all be treated alike. The thunders of the law necessary in one case would be perilous in another, and the gentle wooing successful in one would be like oil on a granite slab in another. No profession on earth needs more skill than does the right sowing of the seed of the Word. Souls are a fearful thing to be mistaken about.

Archibald Brown

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
Proverbs 11:30*

Who can this be but Jesus?

(Alexander Smellie, "The Secret Place" 1907)

"A Man will be like . . .
a shelter from the wind,
a refuge from the storm,
streams of water in the desert, and
the shade of a great rock in a parched land!" Isaiah 32:2

The beautiful words of the prophet find their supreme fulfillment in Jesus--the Man who is both my Brother, and the Son of the Most High God.

Jesus is my Sin-Bearer, and therefore I discover in Him a shelter from the wind and storm. Between me and the the fiery hurricane of God's wrath, about to overtake me because of my sin--He has placed Himself! The storm of divine wrath broke on Him, instead of on me! He felt all its scorching and devastating power. And so, when I take refuge in what He has done and in who He is--He screens me from its fury!

Jesus stretched wide His blessed arms on the Cross; in His holy bosom, He received all the spears of divine wrath which should pierced my heart forever in Hell!

Jesus is my Friend, and therefore I discover in Him streams of water in the desert. Not content with redeeming me from death, He satisfies all the thirst of my heart--the thirst which the world's best things can neither satisfy nor quench. Yesterday, it was the hot, burnt, agonizing desert; today I am among "the silver mountains, where the nectar fountains spring."

The Bible has ceased to be vexatious and dull; it brims over with light and help and joy. Prayer is a task no longer--but a well of refreshment. He gives me fuller grace, life more abundant, deeper holiness, and soul-satisfaction. I hunger no more, neither thirst any more.

And Jesus is my Master, and therefore I discover in Him the shade of a great rock in a parched land. The monotony, the miserable sameness, of my life--how is it cured? It is cured when He begins to reign over me. Before He came, it was sand, sand, sand, as far as the eye could travel--yellow sand below, and blazing sun above! But since He came, there is something else, a mighty rock rising in the midst of my parched land; and, nestling under its shade . . .

the grass is green,
and the flowers are bright,
and the wilderness is wilderness no more.

Every passing act is dignified now, because it is done for Christ. Every trifle is sacred, because His Heaven bends over me, and His eternity awaits me. I have escaped from the monotony, the tediousness, the dull routine of life. He crowns me with His loving-kindness and tender mercy!