

How wretched a world would this be--were it not under the wise management of divine Providence! If 'chance' or 'blind fate' were its rulers--what desolation would crowd upon us every moment! We would soon be crushed in the ruins of a fallen world. Every wind that blows--might blast us with death! And fire and water would mingle in a blended chaos, and bury us in their destruction!

But so extensive is the care of Providence, that even the sparrows may find safety in it! And we cannot lose so much as a hair of our heads, without God's permission! Matthew 10:29-31. And how much more then, are we His redeemed children under His loving guardianship and direction! Samuel Davies

### 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 VII. Are there more Gods than one?

Answer. There is but one only living and true God.

Deut. 6.4; Isa. 45.5-6, 21-22; 1 Tim. 2.5.

Question VIII. How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

Answer. There are three Persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and these Three are One, the same in essence, and equal in power and glory.

Matt. 3.16-17 & 12.31-32 & 28. 19; Jn. 5.23 & 15.26; 2 Cor. 13.14; 1 Jn. 5.7.

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WXTH-LP 101.7 FM— In Richwood

#### Services:

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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### EVERLASTING

*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2*

It is amazing that men cower in fear of various threats to their safety and take precautions based on personal and particular phobias. Many, having heard of hundreds dying in a plane crash refuse to fly even though statistics have shown that air travel is safer than automobiles. Many have had near-death experiences only to continue undaunted in the face of that which seemed to threaten. Yet, these same people have no respect for the prospect of that which follows death itself. While the fact of hell looms large before them, they tremble in the presence of a snake that has no desire to harm them. They live as though the only threats are the ones they can see and are unshaken at the many declarations of the Word of God. What they cannot deny is that death is inevitable. John the Baptist spoke to the religionists and legalists of his day as to fleeing from the wrath to come. Men turn a deaf ear to the words of our Lord: *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28.*

This short passage should be startling to all. To those secured in the faith of Christ Jesus our Lord we should be awakened to that from which we are delivered and should be moved to endeavor to persuade men as did Paul since we know the terror of the Lord. (See 2 Cor. 5:11). To those that are facing certain death without hope, the terms “everlasting” and “shame” and “contempt” should be of immediate concern.

The Bible does not deal in uncertainties as far as the revelation of God, His holiness, and His justice are concerned. The reminder of Paul to the Romans was very strong. In chapter 2 of his epistle to them he warned of the possibility of treasuring up wrath against the “day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.” The distinction is clear: *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Romans 2:7-8.* The end result was succinctly described hundreds of years earlier by Daniel. It is either everlasting life or everlasting shame and contempt. No middle ground is mentioned and there is no indication of revisiting their status at the time of this appearance before God.

Paul concluded his message to the Athenians with the declaration that God’s righteous judgment was a sure thing in that He had raised Jesus from the dead. Men may deny what was written, but they cannot deny what was done to Christ. For centuries men have labored to refute both the fact and the efficacy of the death and resurrection of Christ. Yet, He not only lives and reigns on high, but He also lives in the resurrected lives of His people. Even now they are living the “everlasting life” which they shall forevermore enjoy in their resurrected and changed bodies. In the terms of the Apostle these are they who by the grace of God have

lived in the evidence of that grace: *But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: Romans 2:10.* Thus, the effects of sin and death are certified as removed by virtue of the resurrection of Christ our Lord from the death and suffering endured for them that believe. These are the some who awake to “everlasting life.”

Life is not mentioned in connection with those who inherit the “shame and everlasting contempt.” In this case there is a clear distinction between life and conscious existence. Life is that which is known in Christ. *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:4.* Shame is understood in the sense that it is experienced by its bearer. In this, the fact and reason of the shame will be known without the ability to repent. There will be sorrow without regret (excepting of course the accompanying torment). The idea of contempt is that such are held as unbearably repulsive by He that is called holy and righteous and good. As had oft been said of them, “tears ever falling but out of mercy’s sight.” And such is without recourse. *Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Mark 9:48.*

Texts such as this one are seldom preached

and never preached at all by those desiring to be “seeker friendly.” But, shall we not relate to them the infinite suffering of Christ that they may know that which awaits the uncaring and the unrighteous? The things they fear in this world are nothing in comparison to the horrors of hell. It was this that fell upon the Innocent Lamb of God and how great was the degree of forsakenness He endured because of my sin. The fact is that “through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sin.” This is what makes grace Amazing and what drives true repentance and faith. It is impossible to see the greatness of the Gospel and the mercy and grace it declares if we do not see from what we are delivered. Indeed we are delivered from this present evil world and the consequences of pursuing it and we are delivered to “everlasting life” in Him. *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.*

Salvation is by grace alone. It is of the Lord in every way we might consider. It is incumbent upon we who know this to tell of Him who deals exclusively in mercy and tell them why they need it. *bhs*

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## EATING, DRINKING, AND MARRYING

The Lord Jesus Christ said this regarding the final day: “But of that day and hour no one knows ... But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:36-39).

You probably know the story of the flood in Noah’s day. It is recorded in Genesis chapters six-seven. The world was so wicked that God said He would destroy it. But He instructed Noah to prepare an ark for the salvation of all who would enter it. Noah did so. As he prepared the ark, he preached to others, warning them of the coming flood and exhorting them to enter the ark of salvation. But the wicked ignored him, because they were too busy “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage”.

Eating and drinking and marrying are not bad in and of themselves. They are everyday events common to all. Noah and his family did all three. God can be glorified in all three (1 Corinthians 10:31). Food and drink and marriage are blessings from God.

But these physical blessings become curses when one devotes himself to them and neglects the spiritual needs of his soul. So it was with those who perished in Noah's day. So it will be with those who perish in the day of Christ's return.

Will it be so with you? Are you so preoccupied with physical and earthly things that you give no serious thought to spiritual and heavenly things? Are you eating and drinking to satisfy your body – which will eventually perish – but neglecting the food and drink Jesus provides for your soul and results in everlasting life? (See John 6:27, 35 & 4:1-14.) Will you spend more time choosing a spouse than considering your need of Jesus Christ as Savior? Do you give more time and consideration to planning your daily meals than to preparing for eternity?

If Jesus Christ returns today, will you be found “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage”, and ignoring the call of God's preacher to come to Jesus Christ for salvation?

Will you ignore the exhortation you now are reading, and return to eating and drinking and all the other physical things of this earthly life?

When Jesus Christ returns, will you be ready? Daniel Parks

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### Ministry — More Important Than Life

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 20:24) According to the New Testament, “ministry” is what all Christians do. Pastors have the job of equipping the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12). But ordinary Christians are the ones who do the ministry.

What ministry looks like is as varied as Christians are varied. It's not an office like elder or deacon; it's a lifestyle devoted to making much of Christ.

It means that we “do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Whether we are bankers or bricklayers, it means that we aim at advancing other people's faith and holiness.

Fulfilling your ministry is more important than staying alive. This conviction is what makes the lives of radically devoted people so inspiring to watch. Most of them speak the way Paul did about his ministry here in Acts 20. Doing the ministry that God gives us to do is more important than life.

You may think you need to save your life in order to do your ministry. On the contrary, how you lose your life may be the capstone of your ministry. It certainly was for Jesus, only in his thirties.

We need not fret about keeping ourselves alive in order to finish our ministry. God alone knows the appointed time of our service.

Henry Martyn was right when he said, “If [God] has work for me to do, I cannot die.” In other words, I am immortal until my work is done. Therefore, ministry is more important than life. John Piper, From *Future Grace*, page 287