

God reveals His glorious majesty in the highest heavens, His fearful justice in the hell of the damned; His wise and powerful providence is manifest throughout the whole world; but His gracious love and mercy in, and unto His church here upon the earth.

John Robinson

All things (but lying, dying, and denying Himself) are possible to God.

Christopher Nesse

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 XVI. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein He created him?

Answer. When God created man He gave him a law, promising him a continuance of the life and blessings which he then possessed on condition of his perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil upon pain of death.

Gen. 2.15-17.

Question XVII. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

Answer. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created by sinning against God.

Gen. 3; Ecc. 7.29.

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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 9, No. 1

January 3, 2016

THY GOD REIGNETH

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Isaiah 52:7

There is no greater news that one could hear than that which conveys to them the message that they have an eternal interest in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. When one, having been convinced of his guilt before our Holy God, and having sensed his own undone-ness, and seeing himself without resource to appease God, hears the message of his salvation through Spirit quickened ears it is glad tidings of great joy to him. While this beautiful and poetic passage points to the bearer of such wonderful news, it is the substance of the message that arrests the attention of the recipient and causes him to rejoice at the sight of the messenger.

The immediate reference here is to the captivity that was coming to Judah as a result of their disobedience and the deliverance that would follow. The history of what transpired is well known. The reaction to the announcement of a returning people certainly fits the description here. The importance of what is said here is emphasized in that a later prophet seems to quote Isaiah: *Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off. Nahum 1:15.* The greater impact to us is that Paul claimed this declaration in describing the nature of the Gospel and those who bring the message to its objects: *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the*

gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:15.

One commentator expressed the thought that “The expression refers neither to the sound nor to the sight of the feet. The feet stand for what they do.” Keil and Delitzsch characterized them as the feet “that bound like gazelles over the mountains.” It would not be improper to suppose that the prophet saw a liveliness and a lightness in the step of those who knew of the greatness and the beauty of the message they bore. The logical connection made by the Apostle Paul with regard to this passage surely assumes that the messenger has a vested interest in the Gospel and would act in concert with the joy he felt as well. In that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, the vehicle that delivers it is sanctified by the message he carries. Those calling upon the Lord shall be saved. It is essential that they be told of Him in whom they would believe. They must hear of Him in order to believe. The means of hearing is a preacher sent by God. It only follows that such would go with enthusiasm and anxiousness that their message be delivered. The importance of their message would be reflected in their manner and they would go with great concern for those to whom they were sent.

The content of the message here is consistent with that of the Gospel we preach. Everything about it is good. We are reminded of the words of the Apostle as to the faithful

saying: *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 1 Timothy 1:15.* The needs of salvation are described by Isaiah and are faithful sayings indeed. There is the publication of peace that no man can attain to of himself. It is in the application of the precious blood of Christ that peace is obtained and it is through hearing that “through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins,” that we learn that we have peace with God. This is not the elusive peace that is set forth in a social gospel (which is no gospel). It is that enduring peace that comes to us as the word of reconciliation. It matters not to the hearer of these things that he is hated of the world since he is in possession of the peace which passes understanding.

Following peace is “good tidings of good.” These are two different words and might be termed “glad tidings of good things.” We are reminded of the words of the Angels who heralded the birth of the Lord Jesus: *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10.* And we are reminded of the comprehensive nature of the provision of God in Christ: *He that spared not his*

own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:32.

The greatest component of this declaration is that “Thy God reigneth.” The message was first understood in that they would be returned to Jerusalem and that Zion would be restored and that the reign of God among them would be known. Paul brings the application to bear in the message of the Sovereign Grace of God. While all those things are held out before men, there can be no confidence in any of it except the hand of the Lord brings it to bear. So it is that the Holy Spirit of God sovereignly quickens men and enables them to believe the message of mercy that is to be had with the Lord. He sovereignly gives to them “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Our God reigns over all the affairs of men to bring about salvation to the fullest in all them that call upon Him and so the message that He is in control is glad tidings to all who truly believe.

The world cries out for the removal of the name of God and recoils at the very mention of His name. But, in spite of all that appears it is known and assured in the hearts of His people – “Thy God reigneth!” *bhs*

Clouds And Darkness

Clouds and darkness are round about Him. — Psalm 97:2

A man who has not been born of the Spirit of God will tell you that the teachings of Jesus are simple. But when you are baptised with the Holy Ghost, you find “clouds and darkness are round about Him.” When we come into close contact with the teachings of Jesus Christ we have our first insight into this aspect of things. The only possibility of understanding the teaching of Jesus is by the light of the Spirit of God on the inside. If we have never had the experience of taking our commonplace religious shoes off our commonplace religious feet, and getting rid of all the undue familiarity with which we approach God, it is questionable whether we have ever stood in His presence. The people who are flippant and familiar are those who have never yet been introduced to Jesus Christ. After the amazing delight and liberty of realizing what Jesus Christ does, comes the impenetrable darkness of realizing Who He is.

Jesus said: "The words that I speak unto you," not — "the words I have spoken," — "they are spirit, and they are life." The Bible has been so many words to us — clouds and darkness — then all of a sudden the words become spirit and life because Jesus re-speaks them to us in a particular condition. That is the way God speaks to us, not by visions and dreams, but by words. When a man gets to God it is by the most simple way of words. Oswald Chambers

THE LITTLE FLOCK

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." — Luke 12:32 The music of the Shepherd's voice again! Another comforting "word," and how tender! His flock, a little flock, a feeble flock, a fearful flock — but a beloved flock — loved of the Father, enjoying His "good pleasure," and soon to be a glorified flock — safe in the fold, secure within the kingdom! How does He quiet their fears and misgivings? As they stand panting on the bleak mountainside, He points His crook upwards to the bright and shining gates of glory, and says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you these!" What gentle words! what a blessed consummation! Gracious Savior, Your gentleness has made me great! That kingdom is the believer's — by irreversible and inalienable covenant-right. Says Jesus in another place, "I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father has appointed unto Me." It is as sure as everlasting love and almighty power can make it. Satan, the great foe of the kingdom, may be injecting foul misgivings, doubts, and fears as to your security; but he cannot divest you of your purchased immunities! He must first pluck the crown from the 'brow upon the throne', before he can weaken or impair this sure word of promise! If "it pleased the Lord" to bruise the Shepherd — then it will surely please Him to glorify the purchased flock. Believers, think of this! "It is your Father's good pleasure." The Good Shepherd, in leading you across the intervening mountains, shows you signals and memorials of paternal grace studding all the way. He may "lead you about" in your way there. How did He lead the children of Israel of old out of Egypt — to their promised kingdom? By forty years' wilderness discipline and privations! But trust Him; do not dishonor Him with guilty doubts and fears. Do not look back on your dark, stumbling paths, nor within on your fitful and vacillating heart; but forwards to the promised heavenly kingdom! Let the melody of the Shepherd's voice fall gently on your ear, "It is your Father's good pleasure." I have given you, He seems to say, the best proof that it is My good pleasure. In order to purchase that kingdom — I died for you! "I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find My sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day." Fear not, then, little flock! Though for a while, you are in the bleak mountain and arid wasteland, seeking your way Zionward, it may be "with torn fleeces and bleeding feet;" for, "It is not the will of your Father who is in Heaven — that one of these little ones should perish!"

John McDuff

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Revelation 19:6