

Something more than a theoretical knowledge of God is needed by us. God is only truly known in the soul as we yield ourselves to Him, submit to His authority, and regulate all the details of our lives by His holy precepts and commandments. “Then shall we know, if we follow on (in the path of obedience) to know the Lord” (Hosea 6:3). “If any man will do His will, he shall know” (John 7:17). “The people that do know their God shall be strong” (Dan. 11:32). Arthur W. Pink

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 XXXVIII. What is Jesus Christ unto the elect?

Answer. Jesus Christ is made of God unto the elect wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption; He is their head, life, strength, portion and their all in all.

Psa. 18.1-2 & 73.25-26 & 142.5; S of S. 5.9-16; Jer. 23.6; 1 Cor. 1.30-31; 2 Cor. 5.21; Eph. 1.22-23 & 5.23; Col. 3.3-4,11.

Question XXXIX. How are the elect made partakers of the redemption by Christ?

Answer. The elect are made partakers of the redemption by Christ in the effectual application of it to them by His Spirit.

Zech. 4. 6; Jn. 3.27 & 14.26; 1 Cor. 2.10 & 6.11; Eph. 2.1; Col. 2.13.

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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

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HAVING THESE PROMISES

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

As we read the second of Paul's epistles to the Corinthians we are acutely aware that he is defending his ministry and his apostleship as a result of spurious charges leveled against him. Notwithstanding the adversarial behavior towards him, he responded with grace, love and kindness. He did firmly and forcefully respond to their false charges and assumptions. Yet, he did not forget to remind them of the nature of their relationship with the Lord. He would have them to know that they and what they were given in Christ was a matter of promise. Paul was confident that they would realize both the design and intent of God in bringing these promises to fruition. Having therefore exhorted them to separation and a manner of life consistent with true faith, he reminds them of promises possessed and the One who has promised as the true object of reverential fear.

The theme of defense is evident throughout this epistle. So, also, are the promises referenced in this text. The last two verses of the previous chapter are most endearing to any true believer. *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.* Paul would have them (we who believe) to understand that these promises have been made by our Sovereign Lord and are sealed with His blood and that the gifts and calling of God are without

repentance. We may understand them as standing as revelation of the purpose of God to save and to bless and fellowship the objects of his love. We may further claim, as the redeemed of the Lord, a secured interest in all that the Lord has promised. No action of the Lord is ever undertaken with any question as to the outcome. All will serve His purpose and redound to His eternal glory and will be manifested in the praise of His people.

The things to which this world looks and which they expect from God are often such as may be consumed upon their lusts. That which is given us by way of promise has in every regard the image and superscription of Christ thereupon. Included in that which is promised is both the inclination and the ability to move toward “perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” So we would be drawn to the basis of and the validity of all the promises of God as Paul expressed it early in this epistle: *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Corinthians 1:20.* C. H. Spurgeon made reference to taking any text of scripture and proceeding directly to Christ and if one could not make such a connection it indicated that the text was not understood by the reader. The “all” of that text is inclusive of any promise to be found in the Bible. If Christ is not who He is declared to be and if He has not done what He has claimed to have done and if He is not, even now, enthroned on high interceding and expecting

the full fruition of it all to the eternal glory of God, then no promise has any meaning. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that while we do not see all accomplished just yet, *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Hebrews 2:9.*

Paul does not hesitate to use the endearing term, "dearly beloved." He had spent a lengthy period of time with these people ministering and teaching them in the love of Christ. They were dearly beloved to him and such love was undaunted in spite of their untoward behavior. The manner of love that Paul expressed to them is that which is manifested where there is a shared love of Christ and a shared realization of the love of Christ toward them. John questioned any who would claim to love the Lord and not love the brethren. So he would remind them and encourage them to know of promises possessed.

Among the things promised was liberty: *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 2 Corinthians 3:17.* In the possession of such liberty there is encouragement to pursue all that pertains to life and Godliness. As a result profitable change may

be anticipated: *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.* There is the promise of resurrection: *Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. 2 Corinthians 4:14.* This was followed with the assurance of coming into the bodily presence of Christ at death: *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8.* These things were and are assured to all who believe and they direct us to the aims expressed in them.

Paul's reminder to the Corinthians of the promises they possessed serves the same purpose in us. Do we find in us the realization of the aim of Paul in relating this to them? Does the realization of the possession of the promises (Christ) encourage the fleshly and spiritual cleansing with holiness in the fear of God as our aim? The aim of that promised is perfection in the presence of God. To possess the promises is to possess Christ and to possess Christ is the ultimate aim: *I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine... bhs*

All things have become new!
(Thomas Reade)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Our perceptions will be new. A divine light will break in upon our minds. The darkness of error, which obscured the truth from our view, will be dissipated.

Our principles will be new. We shall act from pure, holy, unselfish motives. Faith working by love will be the grand moving principle. Self will no longer be the pivot on which we turn--but Jesus will be our all in all.

Our practice will be new. We shall live no longer according to the sinful customs of the world, or the powerful solicitations of the flesh--but according to the holy precepts of the everlasting Gospel. We shall delight in the law of God after the inward man. It will be our food and drink to do the will of our Father.

Our plans will be new. We shall dedicate ourselves, and all we have and are, to the

service of that divine Savior who loved us, and gave Himself for us. We shall not be daily occupied in forming plans for worldly pleasure, or projecting schemes for the acquisition of worldly profit; but in devising means for carrying on the cause of truth, and for spreading the knowledge of a crucified Redeemer throughout the earth.

Our prospects will be new. The darkness being past, and the true light now shining--we shall see the distant radiance of the heavenly Zion, and behold, with the telescopic eye of faith, the land which is very far off.

Our privileges will be new.

God will be our reconciled Father.

Jesus will be our Savior and friend.

The Holy Spirit will be our sanctifier and comforter.

And Heaven will be our eternal home!

Our portion will be new. All those exceeding great and precious promises, will be ours.

We shall be heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ! We shall be the citizens of the New Jerusalem, and inherit that kingdom that is incorruptible and undefiled, prepared for all the new creatures in Christ Jesus, before the foundation of the world.

To sum up all this blessedness, we shall experience in this world a progression in holiness--and in the world to come, a perpetuity of bliss!



FAITH AND REASON Faith has not always been as suspect a category as it has now come to be. Both the Hebrews and the Greeks had an understanding of faith. True, there were some differences, but faith still had legitimacy. Today, if faith is admitted at all, it is seen as the faith to have faith. It is packaged as a private matter and banned from intellectual credence. "Everyone has to have some faith," we quip. "If it were not for my faith, I would never have hung in there," we may hear someone else say. Faith in what, one might ask? In such a faith, the focus is often on anything but truth and on everything that signals pragmatism—"It worked for me, whether it's true or not." Such glib pronouncements have made us vulnerable to the faith marketers of our time. It is time to do some "temple cleansing" of the mind and face this reality head-on.

Ravi Zacharias



"The early Christians were not fed to wild beasts or dipped in wax and set ablaze as lamps in Nero's garden because they thought Jesus was a helpful life coach or role model, but because they witnessed to him as the only Lord and Savior of the world.

Jesus Christ doesn't just live in the private hearts of individuals as the source of an inner peace. He is the Creator, Ruler, Redeemer, and Judge of all the earth." - Michael Horton

To be Born Again

"To become born-again you must..... hold on a second, let me back up and try again..... to become born-again GOD must choose to create you a new heart, quicken you from the dead. Thereby, enabling you to repent of your sin and use the faith that He gifted you when He regenerated you. That is grace. Zachary Kueker

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.