

“Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am” (Psalm 39:4). — I do not need to know and do not wish to know when or by what appointed means this body of flesh shall be brought into the dust of death. What I do need, what I do want is grace to have a perpetual sense of my frailty, that I may constantly anticipate the immediate termination of this mortal existence, and be ready without notice for my Savior’s call, “looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Don Fortner

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 XLII. What blessings do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

Answer. They that are effectually called do, in this life, partake of justification, adoption, sanctification and the several blessings which do in this life accompany them.

Psa. 68.18; Rom. 5.1-2 & 8.30-32; 1 Cor. 1.30; Gal. 4.6; Eph. 1.5.

Question XLIII. What is justification?

Answer. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein the elect are accepted as righteous in God's sight alone, for the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and they receive it by faith.

Rom. 4.3-5,24-25 & 5.18-19; 2 Cor. 5.21; Gal. 3.5-11; Phil. 3.9; Tit. 3.7.

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: branthsj@msn.com

Website: www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com

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

Volume 9, No. 14

April 3, 2016

THE FAITH OF NOAH

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:7

The thought that Noah “moved with fear” arrests our attention as we consider the fearless manner in which the multitudes in our day face the future. They truly live as if there is no tomorrow and hold in contempt any who would challenge their Godless manner of life. The fact is that many who act in this manner are professors of some form of Christianity while displaying little or no evidence of true faith and, as a result, show no interest in pleasing God. Their identity with religion shows little evidence of Bible awareness let alone being conversant with the plain teachings of it. I once heard an old preacher remark that “many are ‘shaky’ about what they believe but few are ‘shaken’ by what they believe.” While they make much of gospel projects, so-called, they do not move with fear as a result of the revelations of God of the certainty of future judgment.

This statement regarding the faith of Noah is an illustration of the truth set forth in the preceding verse. The oft quoted passage is: *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6.* The writer reveals that the grace found by Noah in the “eyes of the Lord” produced a faith that complied in every way with this precept. Faith was essential in that the warning was of things not seen as yet. The magnitude of the task required something more than human assessment as to both its accomplishment and its outcome. The reality

that true faith brings engenders urgency and action and so he moved with fear. The faith of Noah is truly that described in the first verse of this chapter: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.* We must believe that as this task began that the human nature of Noah recoiled at such an undertaking, not to mention the scoffers that would be ever present over a long period of time. Two things are to be regarded with respect to Noah’s faith. The first was that it gave him a view of God that was not to be doubted or denied. He believed that “He is.” Secondly, he laid claim to the outcome that was the reason for the building of the Ark.

Our Lord’s reference to the conditions in Noah’s day encourages us to consider this statement well: *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matthew 24:37.* There was indifference to the actions of Noah then and there is wholesale indifference to the message of the Cross and of the judgment it portends today. Consider the words of Paul at Athens: *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. Acts 17:31.* There can be no turning back from the fact that judgment is certain on this present world and all those who have refused to “kiss the Son.” Judgment was poured out on Christ at Calvary on the behalf of those who

come unto God by Him and it would be a travesty of the highest order not to execute that judgment on all those who do not. (We rejoice here to read: *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37*).

The reality that Noah saw by faith and the urgency that it wrought in him seem to be largely absent today. That Noah was not moving in craven fear is to be understood. That he was moving in recognition of the holiness, the sovereignty and the justice of God is clear. To Noah it was as sure as if it had already happened. The most urgent reason was that the Lord commanded him to build that Ark to the divine specifications. The second was that it was “to the saving of his house.” It seems safe to assume that the message of coming judgment was preached to others as well. Do we really believe with the same certainty as the songwriter: *Judgment is coming, All with be there, Each one receiving justly his due..?* By faith then Noah acted (it was not of works but the work of faith) and was undaunted by all that would have hindered. It may be that it had never rained. The Ark was probably out of sight

of any body of water and it was huge.

Perhaps one explanation of the reluctance of many to preach this message is that they do not want to appear judgmental. Yet, we are warned and it is we who understand the warning. By preaching the message of the Ark, and by his life of faithfulness and obedience to a gracious God, he condemned the world. He and his message bore witness to the Lord. It is not judgmental to warn someone of immediate and impending danger and so should we warn them specifically to “flee from the wrath to come.”

And so it was, Noah became the heir of righteousness which is by faith. He was already saved, but by his action vindicated the faith of God’s elect and the righteousness of Christ which it manifests. We further note that all for whom the Ark was designed and built came into the safety of it and were saved.

Shall we not pray for such an urgency as was produced by the faith of Noah be evidenced once more in the land. Noah and his family rode the waters of judgment while the world perished beneath them. Even so, judgment is certain for all not found in Christ. *bhs*

“My word will not return unto me void”

“Cast thy bread upon the waters and it will return in due time.”

The sermon referred to below was preached by C. H. Spurgeon in London. It was printed in an American newspaper which in term was sent to Australia where it was wrapped about a package and sent to England

“The dying wife of a landlord gave the following testimony. An evangelist was ask to go to a house in Nottingham and see the landlord’s wife. She was dying. He said, “I found her rejoicing in Christ as her Savior. I ask her how she had found the Lord. “Reading that,” she replied, handing me a torn piece of newspaper. I looked at it, and found that it was part of an American newspaper containing an extract from one of Spurgeon’s sermons, which extract had been the means of her conversion. “Where did you get this newspaper from?” I said. She answered, “It was wrapped round a parcel which was sent me from Australia.”

God’s Word did not return to Him void!

From Pastor Ron Rumburg

The Way Of Abraham In Faith

He went out, not knowing whither he went. — Hebrews 11:8

In the Old Testament, personal relationship with God showed itself in separation, and this is symbolized in the life of Abraham by his separation from his country and from his kith and kin. To-day the separation is more of a mental and moral separation from the way that those who are dearest to us look at things, that is, if they have not a personal relationship with God. Jesus Christ emphasized this (see Luke 14:26).

Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One Who is leading. It is a life of faith, not of intellect and reason, but a life of knowing Who makes us “go.” The root of faith is the knowledge of a Person, and one of the biggest snares is the idea that God is sure to lead us to success.

The final stage in the life of faith is attainment of character. There are many passing transfigurations of character; when we pray we feel the blessing of God enwrapping us and for the time being we are changed, then we get back to the ordinary days and ways and the glory vanishes. The life of faith is not a life of mounting up with wings, but a life of walking and not fainting. It is not a question of sanctification; but of something infinitely further on than sanctification, of faith that has been tried and proved and has stood the test. Abraham is not a type of sanctification, but a type of the life of faith, a tried faith built on a real God. “Abraham believed God.”

--Wisdom From Oswald Chambers

The most precious thing in heaven or earth – John Flavel

In giving Christ to die for poor sinners, God gave the richest jewel in His cabinet; a mercy of the greatest worth, and most inestimable value.

Heaven itself is not so valuable and precious as Christ is! Ten thousand thousand worlds—as many worlds as angels can number, would not outweigh Christ's love, excellency and sweetness! O what a lovely One! What an excellent, beautiful, ravishing One—is Christ!

Put the beauty of ten thousand paradises, like the garden of Eden, into one; put all flowers, all smells, all colors, all tastes, all joys, all sweetness, all loveliness into one; O what a lovely and excellent thing would that be!

And yet it should be less to that loveliest and dearest well beloved Christ—than one drop of rain to all the seas, rivers, lakes, and fountains of ten thousand earths!

Now, for God to bestow the mercy of mercies, the most precious thing in heaven or earth, upon poor sinners; and, as great, as lovely, as excellent as His Son was—what kind of love is this!