

## PREACHING WHAT IS PRECIOUS

Some preachers preach Christ. Other preachers preach other things. This is true because all preachers preach what is precious to them and their hearers. Christ is “rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious” (1 Peter 2:4). Not only is Christ precious to God, but also “to you who believe, Christ is precious” (v.7). Therefore, Christ’s people desire to hear Christ preached, and Christ’s preachers preach Christ. –Daniel E. Parks

## 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 XLVIII. What is the third sense of sanctification?

Answer. The third sense of sanctification is the work of God's Spirit, whereby the elect are renewed after the image of God, which is called the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Rom. 12.2 & 15.16; Eph. 4.22-24 & 5.26-27; Col. 3.10; Tit 3.4-6.

Question XLIX. What law was Christ made under in His estate of humiliation?

Answer. The law of works.

Matt. 5.17-18; Rom. 5.19; Gal. 4.4-5.

### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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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### OUR ETERNAL DWELLING PLACE

*Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Psalms 90:1-2*

How often have we both sung and heard the refrain, “...the land of the free and the home of the brave?” Sadly, we have never been either and especially is that true as we witness the continual decay of our moral fiber and the plunge into the bondage of sin. It is to be granted that many in the past exhibited bravery and are remembered for their patriotism. Many of those had a strong testimony of faith and allegiance to our God and Christ. But, the seeds of self-will and self-determination have long been waiting to germinate wherever pride in accomplishment has overshadowed dependence on the grace of God. We are witnessing this coming to fruition as complicity in the sins of the many has become in many places the law of the land. We are reminded of *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Psalms 9:17.* And sadly, we remember the words of Moses: *To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. Deuteronomy 32:35.*

The security of our land is a tenuous thought at best. But, we rejoice in the knowledge that it is not so with the Kingdom of God. It is thought that Moses penned these words during the long stint in the wilderness with the children of Israel. It is hard for us to imagine being lead out of the only home we had known (even if it was in Egypt with all its hardships) and into a

wilderness that offered no visible means of support or safety. Yet, this is exactly what transpired with Moses and the Lord’s people. While it was well known that their fathers had been dwellers in tents, even their circumstance did not present such a stark picture as this. We may both think upon and read of the divine motives in bringing the people in this way, but the most obvious was that He would be believed, trusted and obeyed as the One who had always been their caretaker. Where true faith exists there will be no confidence in any other resource and no dwelling on this earth will seem secure.

In thinking upon a “dwelling place,” many concepts come to mind. We are made to think of permanence and a place of anchoring. It is the place to which we return again and again as a place of shelter and rest. Thoughts of security certainly come to mind as well. It is here that we pause for nourishment and find warmth. It is what we are fond of calling our home. How is it that we may think in this way of the Lord? The answer is both obvious and delightful to believers. The writer describes well the comfort and security of the believer in *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalms 91:1.* The implications of such an existence are precious. The prayer of the Psalmist is to be ours: *Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock*

*and my fortress. Psalms 71:3. Moses also wrote: The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. Deuteronomy 33:27.*

Such was the confidence of Abraham who "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." He, along with others of the faith looked for no continuing city here. So it is with the children of Abraham by faith who are "looking unto Jesus" and find with Moses of old the precious truth that "Lord thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations..." this one included. There is a present sense to the words of our Lord in, *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:3.* The thought of preparation is usually relegated to a heavenly construction. We would remember that when He uttered these words His next step was the cross wherein would be accomplished the salvation of His people, and their eternal presence with Him would be confirmed. Paul's assuring words to the Thessalonians are precious to us all: *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 1 Thessalonians 5:10.*

So it is then that we understand that the desire of the believer that the Lord be his dwelling place is in accordance with the will and purpose of God. We preciously consider the words of our Lord: *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. John 6:56.* John gives further assurance and comfort to us thusly: *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:16.* The Lord spoke of the indwelling of both He and the Father and such was the continued message throughout. It was the reassuring and emboldening thought of Moses in the barren wilderness and it should be that of we who call upon Him. Truly the heathen does rage (they are abundant in America) and they imagine that they can legislate away the divine decree. But, the same who was God before the foundation of the world is still reigning effectually today and so shall it be forevermore.

This Psalm is properly called "A Prayer of Moses." Should we not grasp the example of this man who appeared with the Lord on the Mount and thus pray with the same confidence? "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." *bhs*

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Will the gates of pearl be opened to let in dogs and swine?  
(Thomas Boston, "Human Nature in its Fourfold State")

There is no Heaven without holiness; for "without holiness no man shall see the Lord," Hebrews 12:14. Will the gates of pearl be opened to let in dogs and swine? No! their place is outside, "Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying." Revelation 22:15. Will God take the children of the devil, and permit them to sit with Him in His throne? Or, will He bring the unclean into the city, whose street is pure gold?

Be not deceived; grace and glory are but two links of one chain which God has joined, which no man shall put asunder. None are transplanted into the paradise of glory above--but out of the nursery of grace below. If you are unholy while in this world, you will be forever miserable in the world to come!

"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still!" Revelation 22:11

"Cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness! There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!" Matthew 25:30

One of the greatest crimes committed by this present Christian generation is its neglect of the gospel, and it is from this neglect that all our other maladies spring forth. The lost world is not so much gospel hardened as it is gospel ignorant because many of those who proclaim the gospel are also ignorant of its most basic truths. The essential themes that make up the very core of the gospel—the justice of God, the radical depravity of man, the blood atonement, the nature of true conversion, and the biblical basis of assurance—are absent from too many pulpits. Churches reduce the gospel message to a few creedal statements, teach that conversion is a mere human decision, and pronounce assurance of salvation over anyone who prays the sinner’s prayer. The result of this gospel reductionism has been far-reaching. First, it further hardens the hearts of the unconverted. Few modern-day “converts” ever make their way into the fellowship of the church, and those who do often fall away or have lives marked by habitual carnality. Untold millions walk our streets and sit in our pews unchanged by the true gospel of Jesus Christ, and yet they are convinced of their salvation because one time in their life they raised a hand at an evangelistic campaign or repeated a prayer. This false sense of security creates a great barrier that often insulates such individuals from ever hearing the true gospel. Paul Washer *The Gospel’s Power and Message*

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Dear young people, Satan especially desires you, for you are the future of the church and of society. Oh, do not be enticed by him who wants to destroy you; rather, respond to Christ who desires your salvation and invites you, “Incline thine ear and come unto me; hear and thy soul shall live, and I shall make an eternal covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David” (Isa. 55:3). When you enter Satan’s sieve, pledge your allegiance to Christ rather than to Satan. Only then will your faith prevail. Pray that you may remain one of those who can respond to Christ’s question, “Will ye also go away,” by saying, “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life” (John 6:67-68). I close by leaving you with two pieces of advice: First, flee every day to Christ as your teaching Prophet, interceding Priest, and guiding King. He is your only hope and stronghold. Only in Christ and through His Word can you overcome Satan. Go ahead and condemn yourself as severely as Satan condemns you, but then bring your failures to our precious Advocate, and He will restore you in forgiveness and love. Second, defy Satan with the Word of God. Stand fast; do not compromise with him, but gird yourself with all the armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20). Do not give way to despair in his sifting; remember, Satan is chained. He wants to claim you; but Christ’s claim upon you is stronger. So be hopeful, sober, and vigilant. Be neither self-confident nor overly fearful, but stand guard against the wiles of the serpent. Remember that your Savior prays for you that your faith won’t fail. And remember the promise of Romans 16:10, that “the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” Joel Beeke *Walking as He Walked*.

“Jesus Christ promises you two things: an eternal salvation in which to hope and a cross on which to die. The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’” Paul Washer quoting Leonard Ravenhill.