In the Bible the Lord has made a precedent by warning of woe before it comes. William Jenkyn, the Puritan commented: "He usually cuts men down by the mouth of his ministers, before he cuts them off by the hand of executioners; by the sword of his mouth, before he does it by the might of the sword.... Of the two general destructions of the world, the past by water, Gen. 6:3, and the future by fire, 2 Pet. 3:7, sufficient warning has been given. God hereby speaks himself gracious, and the wicked inexcusable. He threatens that he may not smite; and he smites that he may not slay.... Jonah's prophesying of Nineveh's overthrow, was ... a kind of overthrow of the prophecy." Contributed by Dr. Ron Rumburg

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 LVI. Which is the sixth commandment? Answer. Thou shalt not kill.

Ex. 20.13; Deut. 5.17.

Ouestion LVII. Which is the seventh commandment?

Answer. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Ex. 20.14; Deut 5.18.

Question LVIII. Which is the eighth commandment?

Answer. Thou shalt not steal.

Ex. 20.15; Deut. 5.19.

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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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THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matthew 7:28-29

It is a troubling fact that the many hold the Bible in total contempt in this present age. It has not always been so. We have witnessed times in which even those with no interest in salvation recognized the sacredness of the Scripture and showed appropriate respect. Certainly, the lives of such people betrayed their disobedience of its precepts, but they sensed that there was something special about that book. Perhaps this was owing to the lives of those who held to the gospel message it presents and manifested the character it describes as being descriptive of life with God. Now it has become fashionable to tie biblical interpretation to cultural issues, demanding that the scriptures be made to fit the designs and desires of a Godless society. Sadly, there are many ready to accommodate their wishes and account their prosperity to being blessed of God.

How different is the case where the Word of God astonishes the hearer? Those who heard the Sermon on the Mount gave indication that they had never before heard the things that were spoken and that they had never been subjected to the manner of authority under which they were presented. They were astounded at the teaching (doctrine) both as to substance and presentation. They were obviously acquainted with the teaching of the Scribes and the various tenets of the Law. No doubt, the Scribes had been careful to delineate details and test them on their knowledge of it. We would be careful to note that not all that

they were teaching was true to the Scripture. Consider: But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Matthew 15:9. But, they had never heard One who spoke with such command of His topic and none doubted that He knew whereof He spoke.

The term for "authority" here brings to mind several things that could only apply to our Blessed Lord. Such thoughts as right and privilege are suggested. It was not only that He was saying these things but also that He had every right to do so. There could be no doubt as to where that right originated. The presence of the Lord in the display of such authority will always have such an effect on those who witness it. So, they were astonished at His teaching. While much was made by the religionists of the day as to their credentials, none doubted either his ability to contain such a body of truth or His competency to deliver it in force. It was clear that He was well within His jurisdiction as He boldly set forth a proper presentation of those things which had been perverted for so long. In the same sense that He moved with force (authority) in cleansing the Temple, so He asserted His authority over the false claims of the Scribes and Pharisees. While we often make reference to the idea of liberty to preach the Gospel, none had such liberty as was claimed by the author of it all. He not only declared the true principles and precepts of the Word, He declared Himself as the only One

authorized to do so.

The disciples had been eyewitnesses to His authority in many ways. They had seen and would see Him exercise authority over the elements such as calming the stormy sea. They would see Him restrain crowds who would have killed Him. He had even authorized Peter to walk on the sea. Often, in the course of this Sermon and in other places as well, He would utter the words, "But I say unto you," disputing their perversion of Scripture and their claims to authority. Some would be sent to arrest Him and return empty handed expressing their unwillingness to arrest Him. The reason: *The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. John 7:46*.

While the enemies of Christ expressed much consternation at these things, none so angered them as the assertion made at the healing of the palsied man. But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) Mark 2:10. The word for power is the same as the word for authority in our text. They were accurate in their assessment that only God could forgive sins. But then, only God could dismiss the disease that held this man bound to his bed. Thus, His manifestation to them as "God manifest in the flesh" infuriated them to the utmost. Such was the exposure to the sinfulness that lay at the foundation of their religion. Such authority

could not be dismissed then or now. The whole of the earthly ministry of Christ was a display of His exclusive authority in every regard – especially to redeem His people from their sins.

As we consider the reaction of those who heard "these sayings" we must ask of those who read them, "Are we astonished?" Our Lord took those things that were being treated as facts and curiosities and probed the depths of the soul. What is the effect of being exposed by the Word of God? The actions of the unregenerate are not surprising as they seek to be religious but have no capacity for the authority of Jesus. After all, our Lord declared "...the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are life." But, what of we who believe that this same Jesus is both Lord and Christ and has redeemed us with His own blood." The Psalmist observed: Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment. Psalms 60:3. Shall we not rather be astonished at Him, His sayings, and His sovereign authority over all?

The rebels of this age hold both Christ and His teaching in contempt. In the end they shall be astonished as they will bow and confess the authority of Jesus: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth... Philippians 2:10. bhs

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27). — What a sweet word of assurance that is to our poor souls in the face of trials, heartaches, and oppression! Throughout the Word of God we are assured, again and again, that the Triune Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, is our Refuge. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Hiding Place and Covert from the tempest and the storm (Isaiah 32:2). Blessed are those people who can lift their hearts to heaven and say of the eternal God, as David did, — "Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance." (Psalms 32:7). — "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Proverbs 18:10). Don Fortner

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." Oswald Chambers

REFLECTIONS.

READER! having gone over the whole of this blessed Sermon of CHRIST, let us sum up the contents, and beg of God the HOLY GHOST to write all the gracious truths contained in it in our hearts, And while we hear the LORD giving to his Church the whole Gospel of Salvation, oh! what a blessed consideration is it, that JESUS himself hath fulfilled all, and is all to his redeemed. Never may the Church of JESUS forget this, but receive Christ as the Father's gift, and the complete salvation of JEHOVAH to the end of the earth!

Precious, blessed Lord JESUS! so may my soul hear these sayings of thine, and embrace them, that building upon thee as the foundation, the superstructure, and the whole, both of Law and the Prophets, when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth, I may be found firm on the rock, against which the gates of hell shall never prevail. Despised as thou hast been, and still art, by Jews and false Christians, and a stone of stumbling and rock of offence; yet to me be thou more precious than the mountains of spices. In thy person, work and offices; in thy character and relations; in thy complete righteousness and salvation; be thou my Lord, my hope, and everlasting portion. Lord grant that I may never build on the sandy performance of anything of my own, or mix up with thy complete work the hay and the stubble of any legal righteousness, which can stand no wind of the day of God's wrath; but be thou the all in all, of all grace here, and of glory forever. Amen.