

The only "free-will" natural man has is willful blindness (Deut 29:4, Rom 3:11-20; John 3:19), so it is not "free-will" that we need but mercy ... mercy to disarm and deliver us from our inflexible, obstinate, fortified self-will and its captivity to sin and the Devil. (John 8:34-36, 2 Tim. 2:26; Rom. 9:16). So-called "free-will" is the problem, not the solution.

- J W Hendryx

If the natural man has a free will to believe the gospel, then why does he need grace? If his will is naturally free then it would do away with the need for grace altogether. Therefore to teach that the natural man has a free will overthrows the gospel ... it is precisely because man is in bondage that he needs Christ to set him free." (John 8:34, 36)

- J W Hendryx

## 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 LXVIII. What is love?

Answer. Love is a grace of the Spirit, communicated to the believer, whereby he loves and delights in God, and in His ways, Word, worship and people.

Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5.6,22; 1 Jn. 3.14 & 4.7-21 & 5.1-3.

Question LXIX. What is hope?

Answer. Hope is a grace of the Spirit, whereby the believer expects all that the Lord in His Word has promised to give, and is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."

Psa. 42.11; Prov. 14.32; Acts 26.6-7; Rom. 5.2,4-5 & 8.24-25; Col. 1.27; 2 Thess. 2.16; Tit 2.13 & 3.7; Heb. 3.6 & 6.11,18-20.

### 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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### A GENERATION OF SEEKERS

*This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. Psalms 24:6 (or, God of Jacob)*

It has been well said that if you want to stir the Lord's people to attention and interest, talk much about the sovereignty of God. Certainly, this Psalm does just that with the opening declaration that, *The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Psalms 24:1-2.* Submitted believers rejoice at such words and at every such reading they are reminded of all that their redeemer has done, and are assured of His ability to carry out all His designs. By these things we are made to worship and to wonder. We worship as we contemplate His majesty, His beauty and His infinite power. We wonder at the miracle of His grace whereby we are called to Him and to His service through Jesus Christ our Lord. Furthermore, it is He that is the singular attraction to each of those who are able to say: *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. Psalms 73:25.* And, to that end they are characterized as seekers.

The people described in this text are identified in answer to the rhetorical question expressed in verse 3. *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?* The answer that follows would seem to disqualify all comers. David declares that such must be of spotless character and perfect innocence (See verse 4). The requirement seems so stringent that even some commentators tend to lessen the apparent intensity of the statement. Yet, the Scripture offers neither

apology nor exception. We are reminded of Peter's words to the people of essential holiness: *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:16.* We are left with no doubt as to the seriousness here in such declarations as: *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Hebrews 12:14.* To ascend and to stand requires the holiness described. What the scripture does set forth is the divine provision whereby such conditions may be met. A particular blessing must come from the Lord and “righteousness from the God of his salvation.” The character described could fit none other than Christ Jesus Himself and could never be said of any unregenerate man. But they, by virtue of being born of the Holy Spirit, have the very life and nature of Christ imparted to them and the merit of Christ imputed to their account so that justified they shall and do stand in the most Holy Place. Hallelujah!

How then are these people identified? The answer is plainly asserted in the text. They are a generation of seekers whose sole objective is the Lord and to come before His face. Men tend to be seekers after something which they believe will bring peace and satisfaction to their souls. They are described as “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” Some devise religions and trust in their homemade idols and rituals. Some simply “lean to their own understanding” and so fail. But, the true people of God can be satisfied with nothing less than His presence and to find full acceptance with Him. To them truly,

“The Blessed Hope” is a person.

What is meant by a generation? We use the word in different ways. The term may refer to a people living in a particular time period. It may be applied to a group with a well-defined cultural identity. So reference was made to the “hippie generation” or other such distinctions. It may refer to the descendants of a particular progenitor. The Pharisees claimed to be the “Children of Abraham” or to be “Abraham’s seed.” We would note that all three of these thoughts may be applied to the subject group here. The time frame is eternity in that we are the heirs of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Their cultural identity is described in the verses preceding. That is, their “conversation” or culture is tied to that in Heaven. And they are descended from one progenitor – They are born of God. The most telling characteristic of this generation is that given us in the text: They seek God and would truly behold His glory in the “face of Jesus Christ.”

David was most expressive of this desire, especially in time of distress: *As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? Psalms 42:1-2.* In our text there are two

words translated “seek.” In the first occurrence the thought is of pursuit with regard to a sense of need. They come to inquire and to learn of Him. It is the desire of one who pursues the Lord in this manner to relate to Him as in knowing of His will. So He would direct “take my yoke and learn of me” or see: *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23.* This generation is not following blindly – they know whom they seek and would relate to Him fully. The second word for “seek” expresses an objective desire for the Lord Himself. Their desire is to worship Him and to behold Him as the King in all His beauty (See Isaiah 33:17). *When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. Psalms 27:8.*

These are not the requirements for salvation; this is precious evidence of salvation. How horrible it is that men conspire to set forth a false identity of the Lord’s people and encourage masses of people to follow.

It has been asked, “who are the elect of God?” They are described aptly as those who: *Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Psalms 105:3. bhs*

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## CHURCH GROWTH

Church growth experts tell us that most people seeking a new church care little about its doctrine. They’re mostly interested in the facilities of the church, its nursery, and its opportunities for new friendship. In fact, we are told that doctrinal teaching in new member’s classes will actually turn people away rather than encourage them to join the church. The experts tell us that today’s church members will switch churches at a moment’s notice if they think that their personal and relational needs will be better met elsewhere---even if the doctrine taught is, at best, suspect. Thus some will opt for better facilities and architecture even at the expense of jeopardizing their own soul.

Erwin Lutzer, *Rescuing the Gospel*

If you want to be popular, preach happiness. If you want to be unpopular, preach holiness. --Leonard Ravenhill

The striped candy technique!

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."* Acts 2:42

Without Biblical authority, or any other right under the sun--carnal religious leaders have introduced a host of attractions that serve no purpose except to provide entertainment for the retarded saints!

It is now common practice in most evangelical churches to offer the people, especially the young people, a maximum of entertainment--and a minimum of serious instruction. It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God's professed children are bored with Him, for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy, in the form of religious movies, games and refreshments.

This has influenced the whole pattern of church life, and even brought into being a new type of church architecture, designed to house the golden calf. So we have the strange anomaly of orthodoxy in creed--and heterodoxy in practice. The striped candy technique has been so fully integrated into our present religious thinking, that it is simply taken for granted. Its victims never dream that it is not a part of the teachings of Christ and His apostles! (A.W. Tozer)



We want more boldness among the friends of truth. There is far too much tendency to sit still, and wait for committees, and number or adherents. We want more men who are not afraid to stand alone.

It is truth, not numbers, which shall always in the end prevail.

We have the truth, and we need not be ashamed to say so. The judgment day will prove who is right, and to that day we boldly appeal.

J. C. Ryle (From Ian Murray's book: *J. C. Ryle, Prepared to Stand alone.*)



Sawing off its corners, or by polishing, varnishing, and adorning it

Ministers do great spiritual harm by departing in the slightest degree from the Scriptural proportions of the gospel, or by trying to win the world by dressing the simple old Evangelical faith in new clothes.

The world is never won by trimming, and compromising, by facing both ways, and trying to please all.

The cross of Christ is never made more acceptable by sawing off its corners, or by polishing, varnishing, and adorning it.

Let us hold on our way, and be jealously sensitive of any departure from the simplicity of the gospel. Popularity obtained by pandering to the senses or the sentiment of our hearers--is not worth anything. Worshipers who are not content with the Bible, the cross of Christ, simple prayers and simple praise--are worshipers of little value. It is useless to try to please them--because their spiritual taste is diseased.

J. C. Ryle *Knots Untied* (1896)