

"Christian!, The only thing that makes you to differ from the vilest being that pollutes the earth, or from the darkest fiend that gnaws his chains in hell, is the free grace of God!"

- Octavias Winslow

A regeneration which man can have, and yet live carelessly in sin or worldliness, is a regeneration invented by uninspired theologians, but never mentioned in Scripture. (1 John 2:29; 3:9-14; 5:4-18)"

- J. C. Ryle, *Holiness*

"It is not your hold of Christ that saves, but His hold of you." - C.H. Spurgeon

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 LXX. What is patience?

Answer. Patience is a grace of the Spirit, whereby the believer submissively waits the will of God, for the accomplishment of blessings promised.

Psa. 40.1; Rom. 5.3-4 & 8.25; Heb. 6.12-15 & 10.35-36 & 12.1; James 5.7-8, 10-11.

Question LXXI. What blessings are connected with faith in Christ Jesus?

Answer. The blessings connected with faith in Christ Jesus are, a freedom from the bondage of sin, Satan, the world, death and the law, with free access to the Father, and a hearty welcome to all the glory of the gospel and the blessings of God's house.

Jn. 3.14-17; Rom. 5.2 & 6.14 & 8.1-4; Eph. 2.18-22; 1 Jn. 2.12-14 & 5.4-5.

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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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A REASON TO REJOICE

The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Psalms 97:1

A psalmist in one place posed a question that might lay heavy on the hearts of many as they witness the moral decline of our nation: *Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. Psalms 77:9.* The time was evidently one of great depression and sadness in consideration of dire circumstances. Having asked the question he quickly recovered, as he remembered who was ruling over all things and circumstances. *And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. Psalms 77:10.* How often do such thoughts, either spoken or implied, come to our minds wherein we think that there can be neither remedy nor hope short of the Lord's second coming. What we should be doing is calling to remembrance our “song in the night” which is nothing less than Redemption's refrain culminating in the declaration that “The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.”

The conditions in our land certainly speak of judgment. Often the worst thing that can happen is that the Lord give to rebellious men what they want. The old Southern evangelist, B. B. Caldwell, once remarked that God has fixed things up so that men can have exactly what they want.” How sadly we read in the first chapter of Romans the devastating words “God gave them up.” How sadly we note the conditions to which they were left; it begins with “uncleanness,” proceeds to “vile affections,” and ends with a “reprobate mind.” Thus they are left “strangers from the covenants

of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world...” (Ephesians 2:12). To the outward observer these are they who are dictating the culture, wresting control of the government and would drag the entire nation into a deep quagmire of sin and debauchery.

It is here that an awareness of the sovereignty of God appears most precious. Yet, many face the future pessimistically as they hear the cries of peace! peace! when there is no peace. As the followers of the evil one find comfort in their sins, the child of God longs for the Lord's coming in a state of sadness. The tendency is to confess that the Lord is able to remedy the situation but simply do not believe that He will, so they do not ask. This attitude stands in stark contrast to that expressed in this text and many others like it. We pray “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done...” and relegate any expectation to the distant future. Such may be the case, but by faith we have been made to know the very One who reigns even now at the right hand of the Throne of God. Is it that we need an explanation from God concerning the manner in which He is governing? Or, are we able to take Him at His word and know that the work of redemption was not to culminate in relinquishing His creation to the forces of evil. Is the great commission a suggested approach or is it a mandate to go forth armed with the Word of the Almighty expecting victory?

There is a manifestation of many attitudes in religion. Many proceed with the idea that things will always be the same and thus expect little

beyond their own aspirations for this time. We do well to be reminded of the boldness of the early believers as they went forth to conquer and did. While many speculate as to future things with great enthusiasm, few look with the same intensity to the “right now” and the immediate future. A recent observation was made that there is a Christian presence in every nation in the world. That does not say that all have been reached, but it says much as to the reach of the Gospel and the Lord’s ability to accomplish His will and purpose. We, in America tend to judge the state of Christianity by what we see around us. It seems that the problem in many heathen nations is how to stop the spread of the Gospel and the thousands who are pressing into the Kingdom of God. While we are languishing over the perversion and diluting of the Gospel on the one hand and a resting on dead orthodoxy on the other, the rest of the world is experiencing an awakening to the faith. For centuries true believers have sent missionaries into a hostile world. Today we only need to step out our front door and we often fear to do so.

John Gill in commenting on this verse stated, “He has reigned, now reigns and must reign until all enemies are made His footstool.” It is to be feared that we read the Bible as either

applicable to a prior time or a future time and so fail to grasp the present rule and reign of our Lord and our God. The Scripture bears record of the reception of the Gospel among the nations. Who can forget the reception at Antioch in Pisidia: *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48.* C. H. Spurgeon wrote: “Other reigns have produced injustice, oppression, bloodshed, terror; the reign of the infinitely gracious Jehovah is the hope of all mankind, and when they all yield to it they will have paradise restored.”

What a precious mandate we find here: “let the earth rejoice!” Why should we have doubts as to the outcome as we look to this precious revelation? If the command is to rejoice, to act otherwise is to sin grievously against the Blessed declaration of a reigning Christ. He has come, He has suffered and died, He has finished the work and He has risen. Now He reigns. While we do not see all things put under His feet, we, by God-given faith do see Jesus and He reigns: *Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 1 Timothy 6:15.* Finally with Paul we declare: *Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4. bhs*

Preaching Christ

“The knowledge of Jesus Christ is a wonderful mystery. Some men think they preach Christ gloriously, because they name him every two minutes in their sermons. But that is not preaching Christ. To understand, and enter into, and open his various offices and characters—the glories of His person and work—His relation to us, and ours to Him, and to God the Father and God the Spirit through Him—this is the knowledge of Christ. The divines of the present day are stunted dwarfs in this knowledge, compared with the great men of the last age. To know Jesus Christ for ourselves, is to make him a CONSOLATION,--DELIGHT,--STRENGTH,--RIGHTEOUSNESS,--COMPANION,--and END.”

From the Remains of the Rev. Richard Cecil, London: 1830

Contributed by Dr. Ron Rumburg

Spurious or Counterfeit Faith

The Bible teaches that there is a spurious faith. In the parable of the sower, Jesus spoke of temporary faith. “They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away” (Luk 8:13). These believers received the word with joy and believed for a season; but in the time of trial, they fell away. They lacked root and fruit, and they did not continue. Paul spoke of believing “in vain” (1Co 15:2). This is non-saving faith. Though it has many marks of true saving faith, the evidence of temporary faith soon appears. It lacks the following characteristics of saving faith:

- continuance in trusting Christ, and in devotion to Him and His service;
- desire to be useful in Christ’s Church;
- attendance to Christian duty;
- love of prayer and the Word of God and of assembling with God’s people in worship;
- devotion to loving the people of God as such;
- progress in knowledge of self, sin, and the Savior;
- progress in loving holiness and hating sin, with increased conviction of and humility concerning personal sinfulness.

A very vivid example of spurious faith is the case of Simon Magus. Of him it is written, “Then Simon himself believed also: And when he was baptized, he continued with Philip” (Acts 8:13). He expressed such faith that Philip took him to be a genuine Christian and admitted him to Christian privileges. Yet Peter later told Simon that he would perish with his money, warning him, “Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity” (Acts 8:20-23).

Reisinger, Ernest. *Faith, Assurance, and Perseverance*

True Saving Faith Described

Regeneration is inseparable from its effects, one of which is saving faith. Without regeneration, it is morally and spiritually impossible to savingly believe in Christ. Except a man be born again, he cannot see, he cannot understand, he cannot come to Christ (Joh 3:3; 6:37, 44; 1Co 2:14). Regeneration is the renewing of the heart and mind; and the renewed heart and mind must act according to their nature.

Regeneration is the act of God alone. But faith is not the act of God. It is not God Who believes in Christ for salvation; it is the sinner. Although it is by God’s grace alone that a person is able to believe, faith is an activity of the person alone. In saving faith, we receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation. True, this is a strange—and to some extent undefinable—mixture. But this is precisely what the Bible teaches. This is God’s way of salvation, which expresses His supreme wisdom, power, and grace.

Reisinger, Ernest. *Faith, Assurance, and Perseverance*



If you are to go to Christ, do not put on your good doings and feelings, or you will get nothing; go in your sins... Your ruin is your argument for mercy; your poverty is your plea for heavenly alms; and your need is the motive for heavenly goodness. Go as you are, and let your miseries plead for you.-- Charles Spurgeon