

No Christian is in a healthy state of mind who is not prepared for trouble and persecution. He that expects to cross the troubled waters of this world, and to reach heaven with wind and tide always in his favor, knows nothing yet as he ought to know. We never can tell what is before us in life. But of one thing we may be very sure “we must carry the cross if we would wear the crown. Let us grasp this principle firmly, and never forget it. ~ J.C. Ryle

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 LXXIV. What is the gospel?

Answer. The gospel may be taken in a limited or in a more extensive sense.

Mark 1. 14-15; Jn. 1.17; Rom. 1.16; Eph. 3.6; 1 Tim. 1.11,14-15.

Question LXXV. What is meant by the gospel in a limited sense?

Answer. Glad tidings of great joy, or a free proclamation of rich mercy, without money and without price, to poor, sin-burdened sinners; with the glorious invitations, doctrines and promises of God's everlasting love, and the blessings these truths contain.

Isa. 55.1-3,6-7; Matt. 11.28-30; Luke 2.10-11,14 & 11.9-10; Jn. 1.16-17 & 3.14-17 & 7.37; Rom. 1.16 & 10.13; Tit. 3.4-7; Rev. 21.6 & 22.17.

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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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This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; Hebrews 10:16

The Apostle Paul clearly set forth the reason that none could ever within themselves meet the rigorous standards of the Law when he wrote, *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. Romans 7:14*. Many have debated the basis for this statement, but Paul did speak in the present tense. Bearing that in mind we must conclude that there can be no conformity to the Law in any shape manner or form apart from regeneration and the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Elsewhere he writes that the natural man cannot discern the things of the Spirit and that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Given the necessity of the work of the Spirit many continue to debate as to the right use of the Law.

Paul counselled Timothy as to the way the Law is directed and emphatically stated that it was not for a righteous man. The Law establishes the universal declaration of guilt as Paul related in saying: *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Romans 3:19*. Paul followed that with the confirmation that none can be saved by obeying the Law: *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20*. In spite of such clear teaching there are those who go about, as did the Jews, seeking to establish their own righteousness.

There is a certain beauty to behold in

contemplating the Law. Who can read Psalm 19 and not be impressed at the effects to be realized in the spiritual application of it. Referring again to the Roman Epistle, Paul wrote: *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Romans 7:12*. The Law was originally given by He who is Holy above all. Thus, it bears His image and is holy, just and good. Yet, it can never appear as such to the unregenerate for reasons previously stated. It sets before us the absolute requirement for acceptance with God. However, no superficial adherence could ever meet the divine standard. Nor was it ever the intent of God that the Law should be the means of salvation. Consider: *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: Romans 8:3*.

Fulfillment of the Law required no less than God manifest in the flesh and so it was that Our Blessed Lord did indeed and in truth honor and accomplish all the Law required. It is His righteousness alone that finds acceptance with the Father. None else has ever or will ever be so received. So it is that two things need to be observed. The first is that all are found miserably unacceptable before God in both nature and actions. Those abiding forever with Him must have a true identity with Him. Enter then the grace of God. The second thing is declared in no uncertain terms --- “Ye must be

born again.” The question might then be asked, “What has that to do with obedience to the Law?” The answer is, “everything.”

The Lord has accomplished in us what no amount of instruction or searching ever could. He has, by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit and on the merit of the Blood of Christ, imparted to us a new nature in which the required inclinations are included. In fact, Paul wrote: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17.* We no longer study a table and hope to systematically obey each precept. These are the things that are done because it is the image of Christ in us. We do not look to stone tables; we look to our risen Lord. And so is discovered in us the fruit of the Spirit: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23.* These words are descriptive of none other than “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

All who have ever endeavored to please the Lord with their self-designed offerings (including trying to obey the Law on their own) have failed and furthermore are found to be in rebellion against God. It is as if to say to Him, “I

understand, but I will do it my way.” Over and over again we must be reminded of His words, “I will have mercy and not sacrifice.” In mercy He has indelibly placed His Law in our Hearts so that we may say: *I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love. Psalms 119:163.* He has graciously written these things in our very thoughts and so directed our devotions to serving Him.

God directed our exclusive attention to His Son. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.” Christ then is “...the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.” Not only has He fulfilled the Law for us, He has fulfilled the Law in us. Men do what their nature dictates. It is the nature of true believers to pursue Christ and His righteousness. It is in His heart of love to Christ that He is motivated to seek Him.

Such is the wonder of the grace of God. That which He requires (obedience) He provides for in a most delightful way. His people do not obey the Law because it is required, but because they are fully and lovingly submitted to Him whose Law it is. We who truly love the Lord and all that pertains to Him have the image and superscription of Christ imprinted on our hearts and minds. *bhs*

“To an effectual prayer there must occur the intention of the mind and the affections of the heart; else it is not praying but parroting.” John Trapp

Years ago I went through a time when my life became so difficult I was unable to pray. I couldn't concentrate. So I stopped trying to have a coherent prayer time, and for weeks on end during my morning prayer time, I did nothing but pray through Psalm 23. I was fighting for my life. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was following the habit of divine reading, called *lectio divina*, which was developed by the early church. By praying slowly through a portion of Scripture, I was allowing Scripture to shape my prayers. As I prayed through Psalm 23, I began to reflect on the previous day and to look for the Shepherd's presence, for his touches of love. Even on especially hard days, I began to notice him everywhere, setting a table before me in the presence of my enemies, pursuing me with his love. Both the child and the cynic walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The cynic focuses on the darkness; the child focuses on the Shepherd. Paul Miller – *A Praying Life*

Preaching from an Overflowing Heart

What is it to preach from an overflowing heart? First, what it is not! If the heart is not right with the Lord that which proceeds from it will evidence the same—"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man" (Matt. 15:18-20). Also, we know that preaching with an overflowing heart is not speaking off the cuff or avoiding studying to show ourselves approved of God or by thinking that if we open our mouths the Lord will fill it. Second, what it is! Jesus our Lord made this general statement: "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matt. 12:34b). The preacher's heart should be full to overflowing as a result of the saving work of Christ and the feeding upon His Word. The preacher by grace has a super-abounding source. "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things," our Saviour declared (Matt. 12:35). Certainly the minister could look at it the following way, "A good minister out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things."

Please, Lord, help us to have overflowing hearts as we minister your Word to your people today. Lord, we need artesian hearts to always be bubbling forth the Water of the Word so we may speak out of the abundance of the heart. We realize, Father, if we have drunk from Jesus' water we have the promise of an endless supply—"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). Yes, the drinker from this well becomes a spring of water habitually bubbling up this living water which is shared in preaching. Joseph Freeston in 1818 wrote: "Experience also shows, that that preaching which flows from a well-affected heart, is much more likely to reach the hearts of hearers."

Yes, we need to be always abounding. Paul's admonition was "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding (or surpassing what is required) in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). Preaching which is out of the abundance of the heart has the promise that it is not in vain.

Lord, we know we should preach the everlasting gospel from a right heart-source. We are to be full of the Holy Spirit who is the author and preserver of Scripture, the teacher and interpreter of Scripture, the One who separates men for preaching Scripture, the One who gives unction to the preacher of Scripture, the One who gives fruit after the sowing of the seed of Scripture. May Paul's words to the Romans be true for us, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:13). We need abounding hearts in preaching; we need to be always abounding in the work of the Lord; and we will abound in hope through the Holy Spirit's power.

Yes, we must remember that we are the watchmen of souls (Heb. 13:17).

Pastor Ron Rumburg