

"I am more afraid of my own heart than the pope and all his cardinals. I have within me the great pope, self." -Martin Luther

"So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: "I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also" - Martin Luther

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 LXXXVII. How is Baptism rightly administered?

Answer. Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person baptized in the water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution and the practice of the apostles; and not in sprinkling or pouring of water, after the tradition of men.

Matt. 3.16 & 28.19; Acts 8.38-39; Rom. 6.4-5; Col. 2.12.

Question LXXXVIII. What is the duty and privilege of those who are rightly baptized?

Answer. It is the duty and privilege of those who are rightly baptized to give up themselves to some orderly church of Jesus Christ, that they may walk, in all the commandments of Christ their Head.

Psa. 66.16; Mal. 3.16; Jn. 14.15; Acts 2.38-47; 1 Cor. 12.12-31; Eph. 1.23 & 4.1-7,30-32.

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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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HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. Psalms 147:4-5

As a child I was taught the little table prayer that began “God is great, God is good...” Such a repetition made an impression upon my mind that was to follow me throughout my life. In the beginning, however, I never asked the question “how great is God?” or wondered as to what He might be compared. Of course, as time went on I began to assert a certain self-centered idea that I might actually be in control of my own destiny or even some of the things around me. Only when He was pleased to reveal Himself to me and in me did I begin to stand in awe of the greatness of the God who had directed me to faith in His Son, my Lord Jesus Christ.

While we as believers rejoice that we have been made new creatures in Christ and have been brought to a precious relationship with Him, the world continues in their mad determination to separate themselves from both the power of God over them and the knowledge of God in them. As Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans, “...they did not like to retain God in their knowledge...” As a result of such rejection of the being of God as who the Bible declares Him to be, there continues a concerted effort by the unbelieving masses to find an explanation for creation that excludes God as the creator and controller of the universe. We find the simple answer in the opening words of the Bible: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1*. Furthermore, all the explanation needed is supplied immediately following and is confirmed

through the rest of the Holy Scripture. When our Lord would give promise to Abraham He pointed to the stars: *And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. Genesis 15:5*. Abraham learned here that there is much that we will never be able to measure with regard to the works of God and especially the extent of redemption. It would have been obvious to Abraham that such a task was not in the capabilities of men. Not only did the Lord challenge him to number the stars, but also to “tell them” or to individually identify them. By this, an infinite distinction is made concerning the Divine Person—our Lord and our God.

We are often amazed at the discoveries of the scientific atheist. As they develop stronger telescopes with the aim of defining this physical creation, they only succeed in revealing that it goes beyond the greatest distance they have seen. But, they will continue rather than confess the power and sovereignty of God. The fact that they must use the light-year as a measure should impress them. One light-year is the distance that light, travelling at 186,000 miles per second, travels in one year. Finite minds cannot conceive of such measures, but faith embraces the God who knows that the heavens are even as He – they go on infinitely. The medical researchers have explored the human body at the cellular level and geneticists have learned that the DNA that appears at

conception describes that person that shall emerge as a result of that conception. But, they search in vain for the origin of life. Like the star searchers they only learn that there is so much more that they do not know. From the infinitely small to the infinitely great things in creation, all are the work of and under the control of our Sovereign Lord.

Paul expressed concern over the things that attacked the faith of the Corinthians. *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3.* It is a matter of simplicity to the faith of God's elect that there is a vastness to every aspect of creation. But, the same faith that reveals that, reveals to us another unsearchable reality. *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; Ephesians 3:8.* Living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ reveals that those riches exist, and that they exist to be joyously shared with those who come unto God by Christ our Lord. Everywhere in the economy of grace there is abundance and the provisions of salvation are no exception. Simplicity in faith embraces that truth without the need to explain it.

David wrote: *O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Psalms 139:1.* To reinforce this thought to the Lord's people, the Psalmist here informs us that the Lord not only tells the number of the stars but that He calls them by name. He knows not only how many, but the intricate makeup of each and so identifies them as the work of His hands. Of how much more concern is every detail concerning those for whom Christ died? The same one who knows the sparrow's fall (because it is in His purpose) also knows the name of every star. But, more especially, that seed promised to Abraham are also known. He knows how many. He knows who. He knows every detail about them. He knows every defect and sin that would prohibit their entrance into His presence. And He has sent His Son into the world to fill up that which is lacking to the most infinite detail. *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:21.* And, as it is with the stars He calls them all by their names!

We can only wonder at the power that it took to create this vast universe and the knowledge that it took to create life and man in particular. But we stand of awe of such power as brings salvation to a sinner like me and such love as moved Him to do it. *bhs*

"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:17

Preaching or Defending God's Word – Dr. Ron Rumburg

God has a glorious Book that He has given us and it is called "the Word of God." And we who are called, are to "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2). This Word is to be proclaimed. So we go forth with "the sword of the Spirit."

Pastor Theodore L. Cuyler reminded: "Waste no time in defending your Bible; preach it and let it defend itself! ... A revival that is not founded on Bible truth is a blaze of pine shavings, and will end in smoke." God's Word is truth and preaching it accomplishes its intended purpose. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isa. 55:11).

A sword does not need defending; it just needs using. If it were a lion you just need to turn it loose. Years ago there was a minister that drew a picture of a rock to represent the Bible. On one side of the rock was a man with a lever trying to overturn the rock. This man represented infidelity working with all its might; just beneath him was the yawning pit and the devil had out-stretched arms to receive him as he fell. Behind the devil were the infidels of the ages firing their artillery pieces at the rock which remained unaffected! On the other side of the rock was an over-protective preacher zealously pressing against the rock to keep the infidel from over-throwing the Rock of Ages. The preacher did not help secure the rock anymore than the infidel could overturn or hurt the rock. The promise of the Lord is that His Word will not return void but shall accomplish its purpose! This is non-negotiable.

The Bible has many warring against it. Are you capable of stopping them? Note those who have sought to destroy God's Word and failed:

- False religions have sought to burn the Bible.
- Infidelity sought to question the Bible.
- Islam has sought to exterminate the Bible.
- Society has sought to marginalize the Bible.
- Government has sought to outlaw the Bible.
- Judas with a kiss sought to betray the Bible.
- Demas for love of the world sought to forsake the Bible.

But we still have the Word of God and when all atheists, infidels, agnostics, humanists, religionists and other unbelievers are dead. That Word will be in the hands of the Lord Christ who will use it to judge them at the Last Day. What the Bible needs is not an apology, not another translation, not a defense, not a makeover, and not a new interpretation. NO! It only needs to be preached. You don't sheath your sword in a fight, but you use it as intended. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword." (Heb. 4:12).

"THE PREACHER'S BUSINESS IS TO PROCLAIM THE GREATNESS, GRACE, AND GLORY OF THE TRIUNE JEHOVAH AS HE HAS REVEALED HIMSELF IN THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. THE FAITHFUL EXPOSITION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE IS THE PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED. EVERYTHING ELSE CALLED PREACHING IS JUST BEATING THE AIR." --DON FORTNER

IT WAS BY THE EAR, BY OUR FIRST PARENTS LISTENING TO THE SERPENT, THAT WE LOST PARADISE; AND IT IS BY THE EAR, BY HEARING OF THE WORD, THAT WE GET TO HEAVEN. "HEAR AND YOUR SOULS SHALL LIVE." (ISAIAH 55:3). --THOMAS WATSON