

"From first beginnings to final completion, salvation is by grace. A person does not even begin to be changed from evil to good by the first stirrings of faith, unless the free and gratuitous mercy of God produces this in him.... So, therefore, we should think of God's grace as working from the beginning of a person's changing towards goodness, even to the end of its completion, so that he who glories may glory in the Lord. For just as no-one can bring goodness to perfection without the Lord, so no one can begin it without the Lord." - Augustine

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 XCVII. What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?

Answer. At the day of judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments and the vengeance of God's righteous displeasure, with the devil and his angels, for ever and ever.

Dan. 12.2; Matt. 10.28 & 13.38-42 & 25.41,46; Jn. 5.29; Rev. 20.11-15 & 21.8.

Question XCVIII. What has God said shall take place with the elect in this life?

Answer. God has declared that they shall be born again, not of corruptible but of incorruptible seed, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever; and that He will put His laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts, and He will be their God, and they shall be His people.

Jer. 31.31-34; Ezek. 36.25-27; 1 Pet. 1.23-25.

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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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PERSONAL WITNESS

Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. Psalms 66:16

A wise man remarked once that “God did not call us to be lawyers; He called us to be witnesses.” There is a strong tendency to get bogged down in attempts to not only fully discern the teaching of the Word of God but also to bring it all to a personal conclusion. While it behooves us to learn all we may and to spread the word as we have opportunity, we must realize that none will ever be converted by the force of mere argument. Furthermore, we will never come to the place in this life when we may become fully settled in such a way that the vast truths and He who is the Truth will not provoke us to worship and stand in awe of Him who alone possesses all knowledge. As a result of much emphasis on doctrinal discourse without the element of personal witness many come to be intimidated and feel that they are not qualified to press the Gospel upon men. I have heard many excuse themselves with “I wouldn’t know what to say.”

With regard to these thoughts, two things come quickly to mind. The first is that biblical doctrine (teaching) is never known apart from experience on the part of the teacher of these things. There have been atheists who could accurately state Gospel truths while holding them in total contempt. Such a person may even take pride in such understanding at the intellectual level and some may even think that such knowledge qualifies them for salvation. But, no truth of scripture is ever understood fully and effectually until it has been taught to the heart by the Holy Spirit and Christ Himself.

But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: Ephesians 4:20-21. Those things so learned become incorporated into that which the true believer declares as “what He has done for my soul!”

The second thing to be observed here addresses the excuse previously mentioned of not knowing what to say to another. I would reiterate that we should endeavor to become as skillful as we may in the knowledge and use of God’s Word. But, that person who has been quickened by the Holy Spirit and heard the Gospel of his salvation has experienced something. One does not need to have organized a presentation or to develop a skill in articulation. I was once moved to tears as I listened to an illiterate man ask to speak and simply said something to the effect “I have been a sinner man all my life and ought to be in hell. But, for some reason unknown to me the Lord “see’d fit to reach down and save my soul and I belong to Him.” As a young preacher I wanted to set all the man’s understanding in order but the Lord would have none of it. He had honored the Lord with His profession and lived the short time he had left on earth confirming his ownership of Jesus Christ, his Lord. What we know is as far as we may go, but there will be a measure of Spiritual knowledge where the Lord has made His mark. If a professing Christian cannot tell what the Lord has done for his soul, it may be that nothing has been done.

It is often frustrating when attempts are

made to share the Gospel as a matter of personal experience only to have it fall on deaf (or dead) ears. Perhaps the thought enters our minds that they are dead sinners incapable of hearing anything spiritual. But, then we remember that we have a mandate to bear witness to the truth as we have personally experienced it and have confirmed it by the Word of God. The words of the Psalmist here suggest that in our approach we must direct our report to an unknown audience. It is to be desired that they hear and so we invite as far as we may. "Come and hear." But, the next part we may or may not know. It is only those who fear God who will hear and these are they who have been awakened and attuned to listen for and recognize their Master's voice.

We may properly be concerned that we obey the Lord in exercising good judgment: *Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. Matthew 7:6.* But, we should never use that to simply avoid bearing witness as to our salvation. From the creation to the consummation of all things redemption has been the expression of the divine intent with

regard to His people. So, in a sense, all that He has revealed to us in the way of His works in creation and salvation has been for "my soul." So, it is a matter of great delight to extoll the wonders of the being and existence of God and all His wonderful works. The Psalmist does not speak of what he has done; he speaks of what God has done. It was God that set His love upon him in eternity. It was God who created the heavens and the earth that He might prepare and work out such a wondrous salvation. It was God who settled all in Christ so that such fellowship could be and could continue for an eternity of joy. It was God, the Father, that sent His Son into the world that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish. It was God, the Son, who commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners He died for us. It is God, the Holy Spirit, who quickens and brings Christ and the knowledge of Him to life in us – the earnest of our inheritance.

All who know Him may cry with Paul: *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 1 Timothy 1:15.* This He has done for my soul! *bhs*

Sowing in Tears—Reaping in Joy!

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him," Psalm 126:5-6

What was David promising in this Psalm, which was written through the Holy Spirit's guidance? He was promising that tearful sowing would culminate in joyful reaping? "Sowing" demonstrates proper preparation: genuine seed, broken land and the planting process; these are all involved before God gives the increase. "Sowing in tears" indicates a great need, a longing prospect or an intense commitment to the task. The prevention of starvation and famine is a great incentive in agriculture. By way of application, the greatest kind of famine is the absence of God speaking through His Word. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD" (Amos 8:11). The famine of the Word of God results in wandering, seeking and not finding that Word (Amos 8:12).

To “reap in joy” indicates a successful harvest, a prevention of hunger and future prospects. Thus we are reminded of the preaching of the gospel and future harvesting in joy. The Puritan Thomas Watson reminded, “Gospel tears are not lost; they are seeds of comfort: while the penitent doth pour out tears, God pours in joy.”

Psalm 126:6 seems to be a parallelism that expands on verse 5. “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” This is what a servant of the Lord who preaches the unsearchable riches of Christ does. Yes, the minister sowing precious seed and weeping in compassion and for its success in the souls of the hearers shall “doubtless” return in the harvest with rejoicing and bearing fruit.

George Whitefield, so greatly used of the Lord in the Great Awakening, wept over those to whom he preached because they would not weep for themselves. His explanation was—“You blame me for weeping, but how can I help it when you will not weep for yourselves, though your immortal souls are on the verge of destruction?”

A. J. Potter, who had been a Confederate chaplain and a frontier preacher in Texas for most of his life said, “Be not ashamed, young preacher, of such tears; they are the visible baptism of an inward anointing. A tearless, heartless ministry is a fruitless one.” And then he noted: “Tarry at Jerusalem, said Jesus, till endued with power from above—that was heart-power. Love drives your chariot wheels; love carries with it a bountiful supply of tears, and baptizes earth’s graves and altars of sorrow with its pathetic dews. It is the weeping evangelist who is to return in the light of victorious joy, bringing his harvest sheaves with him. The learned, the great Apostle Paul ceased not to warn night and day with tears. If, dear neophyte brother, you have not a good supply of tears on hand, you had better not set out on your ministerial pilgrimage through earth’s ‘vale of tears’ without replenishing your stock, for you may need them, as the oilless five virgins, when no substitute can be had.”

Oh, Lord our God, we carry precious seed to be sowed today, give us the compassion in the sowing that when Your harvest time comes we shall be able to rejoice. Lord, your Word gives comfort when it says that when we bear “precious seed (we) doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing ... sheaves.”

C. H. Spurgeon wrote “Tears of earnestness beget tears of repentance.”

-- By Dr. Ron Rumburg

The Christian refuses to allow human merit, saints, angels, priests, images or anything in all creation to share in Christ's work to reconcile sinners to a holy God. Our entire redemption is dependent on Christ alone and it does not (even partly) depend on us. Jesus righteousness is the only righteousness accepted by God. All other sources of righteousness are rubbish and any reliance on them in an attempt to justify oneself will most certainly damn the soul. (Gal 3:3; Phil 3:8) – J. W. Hendryx

R. G. Lee in his sermon. "This Crucial Hour" "I wonder if we aren't puny because we are so precise, so placid, so unperturbed, so pleased with praise, forgetting that we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake." Contributed by Earnie Lucas