

In his comments as to why God would allow Daniel to go to the lion's den, instead of sparing him from it, Ian M. Duguid says, 'God is not committed to our comfort...The Lord will take you into the eye of the storm, to show you that he is the storm's master, and that he can make your fragile vessel float safely through to the other side. His wonderful plan for your life is to sanctify you through trials and tribulations. (1 Pet. 1:6-7) Monergism

"If you are trusting in anything other than Christ, or in addition to Christ, for your right standing before God it is time to throw that thing in the dung-heap." - Pastor Adam McMurray.

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 C. Are not a circumspect walk and a sound creed sufficient evidences of Christianity?

Answer. No; for men may be beautiful without, and be but as whited sepulchres; and may profess a sound creed, but never feel its power, nor receive the truth in the love of it.

Matt. 15.8-9 & 23.23-28; Rom. 2.28-29; Phil. 3.4-7,18; 2 Thess. 2.10; 2 Tim. 3.5.

Question CI. Where must a poor sinner flee for refuge from wrath, sin and the law?

Answer. Jesus Christ is the only refuge from the storm and the only foundation for a poor sinner to build his hopes upon.

Deut. 33.27; Psa. 46.1,11 & 62.5-8 & 94.22; Isa. 4.6 & 25.4 & 28.16 & 32.2; 1 Cor. 3.11; Heb. 6.18.

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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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PROVISION FOR THE JOURNEY

That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Corinthians 1:5-7

When Abraham received the call to go out, by faith he obeyed and did so “not knowing whither he went.” Certainly there is a similarity of experience with every one called into a life of commitment to our Blessed Lord. While Abraham’s journey entailed physical relocation and outward uncertainty it is evident that there was a spiritual component as we read of the tests of faith placed before him. We make comparison as far as we may in that while many carefully outline and attempt to orchestrate salvation in a way to make it palatable to the masses, it is a journey into a life and to a place to which we have never been before. We are called to a “new life” in Christ and so must abandon the old way. Both the manner of the journey and the destination are matters in which faith is the only avenue of revelation. There are no descriptive pamphlets or promotional videos. Both the journey and the destination are ordained of God and realized in the person of Christ Jesus our Lord.

The question is faced by many often (the writer included) as to how shall we begin, continue and finally reach our destination. Such questions are invariably answered in the provisions of God’s marvelous grace as we are again and again given hope in that: *Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Hebrews 6:20.* At each juncture in our journey we are reminded that we “have never been here before,” and there is no visible

look to the next. We preciously declare with the songwriter: “Tho’ by the path He leadeth/ But one step may I see/ His eye is on the sparrow/ and I know He watches me.”

This is the kind of assurance Paul gave thanks for on the behalf of the Corinthians (see v. 4) and for we who read it today. Not only was there the promised destination, but the provision in every way to assure that the journey would be one of enjoying the presence of the Lord. Paul sweetly used the term “enriched.” We are not told much about the circumstances of Abraham while he was still in Ur of the Chaldees, but we are soon made aware of his wealth as he continued into the land of promise. We perhaps forget that the report that our Lord became poor that we might be made rich (2 Cor.8:9). No, this is not material wealth; it is the “unsearchable riches of Christ.” Many seek the riches of this world in order to be comfortable; we have the riches of Christ wherein His love for and commitment to us is revealed and we are preciously assured.

Among these riches are the things needed for work to which we are called. Specifically, this enrichment included utterance and knowledge. While many may look to these things as ministerial gifts and rightly so. They are not, however, so limited in that we are all witnesses to what the Lord has done and how He has brought it about. In that these things are supplied, it should be understood that they are to be used. Our Lord taught the disciples that

ultimately that which they should speak would be provided on an as needed basis: *But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. Matthew 10:19.* Certainly this was not to be a matter of presumption. The second particular here indicates that we are to know both Christ and the things whereof we speak.

While it is important that we be conversant with the Word of God as to its content, it is essential that we be in the way of knowing Christ our Lord. Thus, Paul's reference here to having the testimony of Christ confirmed in us! That is, that the Gospel would be a matter of both knowledge and personal experience and that our conduct along the way would bear the evidence to us and to others of a Gospel work. It should be evident to all that One who provides is also in attendance. Peter would "...beseech you as strangers and pilgrims..." He by no means implied that we were insufficiently supplied.

Such then is the provision that we shall find nothing lacking for the journey and the final presentation at His coming. On the basis of such a precious declaration, none should ever

despair. Our confidence is in the Lord and He will never fail as to what is expected of Him in accordance with His Word. Comfort and consolation are assured. We are reminded of Paul's words elsewhere: *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19.*

But, what is inferred in all this is that we, by the power and urgings of the Holy Spirit, are engaged in this journey with two objectives. First, we would be like those, *Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. Psalms 84:6.* It is the design of God, *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. Ephesians 1:12.* Such should be the aim of every believer. The second is that we should be in a way of "...waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, our sojourn here should be a time of declaring the praises of our Lord and our God and so seeking to bring the Gospel to bear. In so doing, we should never lose sight of the Blessed Hope, who is Christ our Lord and His glorious appearing. We evidence the reality of our Hope by being engaged with Him in the things He has ordained for us. *bhs*

What is a successful ministry? (Don Fortner)

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2

The desperate need of the hour is faithful men in the pulpits of our churches. We have an over-abundance of preachers. We do not need any more slick, polished, well-educated professionals in "the ministry". But we do, most desperately, need some faithful men--pastors after God's own heart, who feed His people with knowledge and understanding. Thank God, we have a few!

In this day of big business religion, when churches are measured not by their orthodoxy, but by the opinions of men; when a preacher's success is measured not by his faithfulness, but by the number of names added to the church roll--it might be wise to consider what a successful ministry is according to the measure of Holy Scripture.

According to the Word of God, those preachers and churches are successful who are faithful to the work to which God has called them. Never in the Old Testament or in the New was a prophet, apostle, or preacher measured by the opinions of men. God's

servants never courted the favor of men, and were never favored by the majority of the people. The church of God has always been out of step with society. The servants of God have always been looked upon as peculiar, bigoted dogmatists, intolerant and incapable of compromise. But they were faithful--faithful to God, faithful to His truth, and faithful to the souls of men.

Do not be so foolish as to measure God's work by man's yardstick. Do not measure the success or failure of preachers and churches by men, by numbers, or by popular opinion. The only measure of success for churches and preachers is faithfulness. Those who faithfully seek and promote the glory of God, who faithfully proclaim the truth of God, and who faithfully serve the eternal interests of immortal souls are successful. Those who are not are failures. The one will stand the fire of judgment. The other will not.

The greatest blessing God can ever bestow upon any people in this world is to establish in their midst a faithful Gospel church with a faithful Gospel preacher as his messenger.

"Tychicus . . . is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord."
Colossians 4:7

Religion, if you please, is now big business! (A.W. Tozer 1897 - 1963)

Religion, if you please, is now big business. A countless number of amusements flourish everywhere, paid for by the consecrated tithes of people who ought to know better.

Christianity has seen a steady rise of religious entertainment as a source of mental pleasure. God's people have turned to the amusements of the world to try to squeeze a bit of juice out of them for the relief of their dry and joyless hearts.

I want to tell you something. If I want to see a show--I know where I can see a good one put on by top flight actors who know what they are doing. If I want a show--I'll go down to a theater and see a show hot out of Hollywood by men and women who are artists in their field. I will not go to a church and see a lot of ham actors putting on a home talent show. And yet, that's where we are in evangelical circles. We've got more show in evangelical circles than anywhere else. I would not give a plug nickel for the whole business of it!

The church is not a religious theater to provide a place for amateur entertainers to display their talents.

"There is no goodness in our will now, but what is hath from grace; and to turn the will from evil to good, is no more nature's work, than we can turn the wind from the east to the west... Christ must oil the wheels of mis-ordered will, and heal them, and remove the stone, and infuse grace (which is wings to the bird): if not, the motions of the will are all hell-ward." - Samuel Rutherford, *The Trial And Triumph Of Faith*

That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:12