

"[A lot of people] think that Christianity is you doing all the righteous things you hate and avoiding all the wicked things you love in order to go to heaven. No, that's a lost man with religion. A Christian is a person whose heart has been changed; they now have new affections." - Paul Washer

"He loves us not because there is something in us that attracts Him to us; He loves us because He determined to love us in spite of our unattractiveness ... It's a love we don't deserve, a love that will never end. It's a love that perseveres even when we fail Him." - John MacArthur

THE BAPTIST CATECHISM
AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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37. Q. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace (1 John 3:1), whereby we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God (John 1:12; Rom. 8:14-17).

38. Q. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace (2 Thess. 2:13), whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph. 4:23, 24), and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness (Rom. 6:4,6; 8:1).

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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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THE POWER OF AN ENDLESS LIFE

And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. Hebrews 7:15-16

When faced with the possibility of death or confronted with eternity, the thought of many is “what must I do?” Such was the cry of the Philippian Jailer when he despaired of life. It was well that the question was asked and that it is preserved for us in that it reveals that men are not given to think in terms of eternity. Two things are evident. One is that, in the face of the unknown, men persist in the belief that the answer to their need is in them. The other is that such thoughts reveal the heights to which pride would reach in thinking to do the impossible.

This finds greatest expression in those who lay claim to salvation by any means other than Christ Jesus our Lord. As did the Pharisees, they pervert the doctrines of the Word of God and portray them as teaching that there is merit in religious activity, good works, mere professions, or even magnanimous thoughts about God. Many will engage themselves to varying levels of devotion to a system or a personal creed and declare their sincerity to be enough to gain acceptance with God. Jesus challenged the Pharisees of having a critical void in their religion: *Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. Matthew 22:29.*

We love studies in the Old Testament and rejoice at the testimony of Christ in the types and shadows. But, we also understand the divine aim in giving the Law: *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. The Jews, apart from true faith, failed to see the spirituality of the moral law and rather placed their confidence in their own ability to carry out the ceremonial law. They saw neither the limitation of their own nature nor the ultimate flaws in human priests. Paul’s conclusion is inclusive of the system and says it all: *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.* The need was for an infinitely better sacrifice and an infinitely better High Priest to successfully offer the sacrifice and to fulfill the office in every way.

The writer of Hebrews declares the priesthood of Christ to be completely removed from that described under the Law. It is the manner of the distinction that appears as Gospel to us. In coming to Christ, we are not brought to one of carnal (fleshly) descent or to One who looks to fleshly responses from His people. His descent is from eternity and He continues ever. *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25.* His is the power of an endless life and it is that same life He communicates to His people. Men think of eternal life in terms of duration. The life of Christ is not only eternal as to duration it is all

sufficient to sustain the existence of Himself and all who are made partakers thereof.

This power is manifested to us in many ways. His is the power to execute all the will of the Father is bringing about the salvation of a people for His name. Many love to quote: *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. Romans 1:16.* Their emphasis is on the “not ashamed” as pertaining to their own boldness which misconstrues the fact that it is the power of God that is not confounded. It is the Gospel, which is Christ, that when truly preached is attended by the power of His endless life. This is the sense in which we understand James. *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. James 1:18.*

The life of Christ on earth was manifested in purity and power. The perfect obedience was rendered up and perfectly displayed as a man that He might be the only acceptable sacrifice. The testimony is clear: “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” His was the power to properly prepare the sacrifice (Himself) and to offer Himself without spot to God. No earthly priest could do that and live to administer the

results of the sacrifice. Nor would it have been acceptable from any other. It is this endless (indissoluble) life that continues to be manifested in interceding for those who have come unto Him by that same power. Paul made reference thusly: *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Ephesians 1:19.*

The Pharisees clung to their pride and claimed ability to execute that which God requires. We, who have been confirmed as the objects of mercy and recipients of His grace and power, rejoice that the glory is His and not our own. We cannot self-administer and rejoice that our High Priest (not after a carnal commandment) is touched with the feeling of our infirmity and that in the context of the power of an endless life. What assurance we are given as we know of the Apostle’s word to the Philippians: *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philipians 1:6.*

Our hope is rested in our great High Priest and the power of His endless life. So, we pray: “For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” *bhs*

Proverb 20:26

A wise king sifts out the wicked,
And brings the threshing wheel over them.

Human government is by the “ordinance of God”, and governing authorities are “appointed by God” to be “God’s ministers”, ordained to protect the law-abiding and to execute wrath on evil-doers (Romans 13:1-7). Governors who are “wise” will separate the wicked from the law-abiding and punish them with the “threshing wheel” – metaphorically speaking. “This was a wooden frame with three or four rollers under it armed with iron teeth. It was drawn by two oxen, and, aided by the weight of the driver, who had his seat upon it, it crushed out the grain, and cut up the straw into fodder” (Pulpit Commentary, on this text). Blessed is the nation with such wise rulers! But woe to the nation whose rulers are liars and perjurers, adulterers and molesters, thieves and robbers, and other sorts of criminals! And, eventually, woe to such lawless

rulers! The King of kings, who ordained and appointed all governors, will at the Last Day judge them.

1. King David exemplified this proverb in the earthly realm (Psalm 101:7f): He said, “He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence. Early I will destroy all the wicked of the land, that I may cut off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.”

2. King Jesus will fulfill this proverb in the spiritual realm (Matthew 3:12; Psalm 1:4-6): “His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire”; “The ungodly are ... like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

– Daniel E. Parks

See that your chief study is about your heart — that there . . .
God's image may be planted,
and His interest advanced,
and the flesh subdued,
and the love of every sin cast out,
and the love of holiness be nourished.

The first and great work of a Christian is about his heart.

"Keep your heart with all diligence — for out of it spring the issues of life!" Proverbs 4:23
--Richard Baxter—

“The deceitfulness of the heart of man appears in no one thing so much as this of spiritual pride and self-righteousness. The subtlety of Satan appears in its height, in his managing persons with respect to this sin. And perhaps one reason may be that here he has most experience; he knows the way of its coming in; he is acquainted with the secret springs of it: it was his own sin. Experience gives vast advantage in leading souls, either in good or evil.”— Jonathan Edwards, *The Religious Affections*

I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam, does not move an atom more or less that God wishes. I believe that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its ordained orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens. I believe that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is as much steered by God, as the stars in their course. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebush, is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence. The fall of leaves from a poplar tree, is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche! – Charles Spurgeon