

“When I am converted by the Gospel, the Holy Spirit is present. He takes me as clay and makes of me a new creature, which is endowed with a different mind, heart, and thoughts, that is, with a true knowledge of God and a sincere trust in His grace. To summarize, the very essence of my heart is renewed and changed. This makes me a new plant, one that is grafted on Christ the Vine and grows from Him. My holiness, righteousness, and purity do not stem from me, nor do they depend on me. They come solely from Christ and are based only in Him, in whom I am rooted by faith, just as the sap flows from the stalk into the branches. Now I am like Him and of His kind. Both He and I are of one nature and essence, and I bear fruit in Him and through Him. This fruit is not mine; it is the Vine’s.” - Martin Luther

THE BAPTIST CATECHISM  
AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

*(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)*

80. Q. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own (1 Tim. 5:8; Pr. 28:19) or our neighbour’s wealth or outward estate (Pr. 21:17, and 23:20, 21; Eph. 4:28).

81. Q. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour (Ex. 20:16).

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WXTH-LP 101.7 FM– In Richwood

Services:

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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### ORDAINED PEACE

*LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. Isaiah 26:12*

The promise of peace is an integral part of the Gospel. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...” The Christian armor includes “...feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” How is that, having both promise and mandate from the Word of God, so many lack evidence of possessing the peace of God? In the midst of this precious song from the pen of Isaiah comes this thought that should direct our attention to the ultimate resource and the realization that peace does not come through either pursuit or endeavor. It comes as the determination of the Lord as being something with which He would qualify us as His dear children.

The aim of the religion of man is to reject the idea of divine ordination in any form and especially in the matter of salvation. Such phrases as “the rest is up to you,” or “all you have to do is,” are so very common. It is certain that great offence is taken at such passages as: *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48.* In considering the text before us, many would add conditionals that would take the implication of divine sovereignty away. The fact is that God has ordained that peace should characterize the relationship He would enjoy with His people and has assured it in bringing us to Him through Christ Jesus our Lord. *For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Ephesians 2:14.*

Regarding the lot of all that are outside the grace of God and in that way of self-determination the answer is simply put: *There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. Isaiah 57:21.* A little later the prophet records: *The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Isaiah 59:8.*

Earlier in this chapter the tender expression of our loving Lord is given us, and any who have known it rejoice at this revelation: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3.* Not lost on us is the fact that, in every reference to this given peace, God is the initiator and Christ is the facilitator. Christ did not offer peace. He left it as a legacy to His elect. *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27.* We might see it as that which is bestowed upon us. It comes with the very knowing of Christ. It is the atmosphere in which salvation is administered. It is the blessed sense of acceptance with God along with the ability to delight in Him in every aspect of His revelation of Himself in Christ our Lord to us and in us. All His ways are pleasant to us.

It is further to be noted that it is He who enables us to know and to experience this peace. “... for thou hast wrought all our works in us.” We are reminded of the oft quoted words: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ*

*Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10.* It is certain that the way of peace is neither known nor obtainable by the old nature. The remedy of God is profound. *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33.* Twice in Hebrews the writer claims this promise as being among the “better things” that are therein declared. Our Lord’s concluding thought to Nicodemus was: *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. John 3:21.* After all: *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13.*

Among those things wrought in us is the ability to know and properly acknowledge the peace that God has ordained for us. It is of great importance. It is declared by virtue of the Peace Offering of the ceremonial law. This is answered for us in the person of Christ Himself. It is sensed in, *I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. Psalms*

*57:2.* It was the desire of David in his prayer of repentance: *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Psalms 51:10.* It is the hope of all who look to the mercy of God: *The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands. Psalms 138:8.*

God’s people gladly acknowledge that all He requires of them is freely worked in them. While they stand accountable, their answer is found in grace and grace alone. *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: Philippians 1:6.* So, it is, that we render praise and worship before God in a context of peace. We have peace with God through Christ Jesus our Lord, obtained at great cost at Calvary. We have the peace of God that passes understanding. It is a prophesied peace and Christ is the peace that was ordained and it is He in whose presence we experience calmness and assurance now and forevermore. It is not a conditional peace – it is an ordained peace and so is made as sure as the Word of God. It is that peace which is the desire of God and is truly the “fruit of the Spirit.” *bhs*

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My advice to those in Christ, especially young Christians, is to avoid getting doctrine from Facebook threads and discussions as you would a viper. Rather I would encourage you to read the Bible and read it again ... to be saturated with it ... then read it some more (Old and New Testaments) And after you read it again ... and only then, go to classic authors and theologians who have stood the test of time (a rich storehouse of these treasures are available for free online) ... then read and test what they have to say against Scripture. Although not perfect, they have a great deal to teach us all. It is staggering how much bad theology you can find online, and it is now doing great harm to many who are in Christ. Those who would promote speculation rather than the stewardship which is from God (1 Tim 1:4) even among those in so-called orthodox circles is breathtaking. And the bickering will more likely discourage and cause you distress than edify you. So be wise about how and what you learn ...too many amateur theologians have no understanding of what they are saying yet make confident assertions about it. ( 1 Tim 1:7) Do not follow them or absorb their doctrines.

--Monergism

## Grace at Sinai

Exodus 19:1-6

The first thing Israel met with at Sinai was God's promise of grace. When the children of Israel left Rephidim, the place of murmuring, they came to the Mount of God at Sinai. While Israel was camped before the Mount of God, Moses went up to Sinai to God. And the very first word the Lord God gave to his people at Sinai was a promise of pure, free grace. First, he reminded the children of Israel of what he had done for them already, reminding them specifically of the grace and power of God they had already experienced. — "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself" (v. 4). Then he promised that he would make these chosen people, the people he had redeemed to himself, his own peculiar treasure above all people, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.

Yes, there were conditions to the promise (v. 5). The Lord said he would do these things for Israel, "if" they would obey his voice and keep his covenant. But, remember, that which God requires of his people he always gives to his people. So, the "ifs" of God are not to be read by us as conditions we must meet, but as promises of God, assuring us that he will meet the conditions he requires. What God promised at Sinai, he has performed for his elect by grace in Christ (1 Peter 2:5-10). --Don Fortner

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You are not mature if you have a high esteem of yourself. He who boasts in himself is but a babe in Christ, if indeed he be in Christ at all.

Young Christians may think much of themselves.

Growing Christians think themselves nothing.

Mature Christians know that they are less than nothing.

The more holy we are — the more we mourn our infirmities, and the humbler is our estimate of ourselves. – Charles Spurgeon

Every time you prefer the pleasures of this world to the joys of Heaven — you spit in the face of Christ!

Every time when to gain in your business, you do an unrighteous thing — you are like Judas selling Him for thirty pieces of silver!

Every time you make a false profession of religion — you give Him a traitor's kiss!

Every word you have spoken against Him, every hard thought you have had of Him — has helped to complete your complicity with the great crowd which gathered around the Cross of Calvary, to mock and jeer the Lord of life and glory! – Charles Spurgeon

"The surest signs of true regeneration is when we love those attributes of God that are most reprehensible to the natural man."

- Jonathan Edwards

"Free will I have often heard of, but I have never seen it. I have always met with will, and plenty of it, but it has either been led captive by sin or held in the blessed bonds of grace." - C. H. Spurgeon