

"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

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)

94. Q. How is the word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation (Neh. 8:8; Acts 26:18; Ps. 19:8; Acts 20:32; Rom. 1: 15, 16, 10: 13, 14, 15, 16, 17; 15:4; 1 Cor. 14:24, 25; 2 Tim. 3:15, 16, 17;).

95. Q. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence (Pr. 8:34), preparation (1 Pet. 2:1, 2), and prayer (Ps. 119:18); receive it with faith and love (Heb. 4:2; 2 Thes. 2:10), lay it up in our hearts (Ps. 119:18), and practice it in our lives (Luke 8:15; James 1:25).

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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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PRAYER AND PROVIDENCE

Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Psalms 119:133

While attending a funeral many years ago I witnessed something that endeared this passage to my heart as never before. A friend of the deceased stood up and began to sing a wonderful song based on the thought expressed in this passage. His voice was clear, his devotion to the Lord was evident, and this was manifestly the prayer of his heart and the desire of his heart for a grieving family. The words of the opening were simple and profound: “Order my steps in Your Word, Dear Lord. / Lead me, guide me every day / Send your anointing, Father I pray. Order my steps in your Word. The words following were of a similar nature: praying for something that is promised. I was immediately moved to both joy and tears as I reflected on the promise of divine attendance on my way, and was moved at the same time to embrace the prayer.

There are many passages of scripture relating to the detailed involvement of the Lord in directing the way of His children. It becomes immediately obvious in all these things that the Lord has a vested interest in all that falls out to us and all that we do. We are aware that the things that befall men exhibit no certain pattern. That is, many and varied are the life pictures among men and even among those who are the Lord’s. Many seem to prosper and pass through this world with little that is stressful. Others, experience distresses of loss, of illness, and of trials of varying sorts. This is not happenstance; it is rather the personal stamp and seal upon the life of each of His children. If indeed they do

prosper grace enables thanksgiving along with the realization that the things of this world are nothing in comparison to what awaits. If it is their lot to suffer, even this is given of God and may become a reason for rejoicing. *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Philippians 1:29.* Paul counted it a privilege to suffer thusly.

Among those passages dealing with the steps of His people are those that give comfort, assurance, and encouragement. Job’s confidence in the Lord in time of trial was precious: *Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? Job 31:4.* It was obvious that Job could not see the reason of his suffering. He was surrounded by “miserable comforters.” Yet, he knew the Lord and understood that for whatever reason it was all the Lord’s doing. And He knew that the Lord knew every detail. Such is the comfort afforded us all.

It is most assuring to remember the words of the wise man. *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. Proverbs 16:9.* This may be looked upon as a mere matter of observation. But, when read prayerfully we find rather the confidence to move forward in this present world. We certainly may be critical of the devices of men and justly so. If indeed we go about seeking by our own means to contend with the things of the world, we are most foolish. Many have used such a thought as this to excuse themselves from the pursuit of the things of the Lord. They do nothing and go

nowhere. If, however, we are in pursuit of the things of the Lord, herein is the assurance that the Lord overrules in the matter of our will and our designs and we are so directed unerringly. The hymn writer wrote of "broken vows and disappointments thickly sprinkled all the way." But, rejoiced in the fact that "...the Spirit lead unerring to the land I hold today" (Is Not This The Land of Beulah).

The words of Proverbs 16:9 are encouraging. David was expressing just that when he wrote: *Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. Psalms 18:36.* At one point David had lamented that there was but a step between him and death owing to the relentless aim of Saul to destroy him. Having received the deliverance for which he prayed, he is able to see more clearly. The thought of enlarged steps includes the ideas of greater space in which to walk and conditions where one may walk without the fear of falling. He had been protected from slipping all along.

It is from these precious revelations concerning the operations of divine providence that the Psalmist is encouraged to pray for the same thing. We often desire answered prayers. The surest way is to pray the promises. C. H. Spurgeon preciously wrote: "This prayer seeks a very choice favor, namely, that every distinct act, every step, might be arranged and governed

by the will of God. This does not stop short of perfect holiness, neither will the believer's desires be satisfied with anything beneath that blessed consummation."

As is often the case in Scripture, the prayer is doubled. Not only would the supplicant have his steps ordered by the Lord, he would be entirely freed from any other control all of which would fall under the category of sin and iniquity. Spurgeon further commented on this passage, "Believers have no choice, darling sins to which they would be willing to bow. They pant for perfect liberty from the power of evil, and being conscious that they cannot obtain it, they cry unto God for it."

What a precious prospect lies before those whose prayer is for the Lord to direct their steps. What precious liberty from the dominion of sin is given to those whose cry for deliverance is unto the Lord. But, what a tremendous price was paid for such hope and such liberty. A popular study Bible graphically depicts the steps of Christ. It is but a picture. The awful reality is that His steps were directed into the abyss of our suffering and death and the visitation of the wrath of God. But, He walked free from sin and death and claimed life for us. Thus, we may confidently pray that our steps be ordered in the Word and in no other way. *bhs*

"The whole of my life stood open to His view from the beginning. He foresaw my every fall, my every sin, my every backsliding; yet, nevertheless, fixed His heart upon me. Oh, how the realization of this should bow me in wonder and worship before Him!"

- A. W. Pink

The message of the gospel cannot be understood by the self-righteous or those filled with self-conceit, but only by those whom the Spirit has broken over their sin, has stripped of all hope in themselves and whose eyes have been opened to the matchless beauty the Lord Jesus Christ as their only hope.

--Monergism

"If you long to save men's souls, you must tell them a great deal of disagreeable truth."

- C. H. Spurgeon

“I Magnify My Office”

Romans 11:13

God’s servants, gospel preachers, pastors, and missionaries, like the apostle Paul, are responsible to magnify the office in which the Lord God has placed them as his servants. But how?

How does a man magnify his office as God’s ambassador to immortal souls? — Not by wearing clerical garb! — Not by elevating himself above others, making Romish divisions between clergy and laity! — Not by wearing titles like “Reverend,” “Doctor,” or “Father!” — Not by refusing to dirty his hands with menial tasks! — Not by refusing to do the same work other men do!

--Honor God

Faithful men magnify their office as God’s servants by seeking in all things God’s glory in the salvation of his elect, by subjecting all things to this great endeavor. They avoid meaningless debates, speculations, vain questions, and strife about words. And they seek to live blamelessly before men, adorning the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

--Preach the Gospel

And gospel preachers magnify their office as God’s ambassadors to your soul by faithfully preaching the gospel. A preacher is known best by his most obvious oddity. I want to be known not for oddities of my own making, but for the oddity God has trusted to me. — The gospel of Christ! — The offense of the cross!

When people speak my name or even think of it, friends or foes, I want them to immediately associate it with Christ crucified, Sovereignty, Substitution, and Satisfaction, Predestination, Election, Limited Atonement, and Irresistible Grace.

--Handle Honestly

God’s servant magnifies his office by handling the Word of God honestly, by preaching the message of Holy Scripture as it is given in the Book of God ((1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2). A man handles the Word of God deceitfully when he pieces portions of Scripture together to make the Bible say what he wants it to say. Any doctrine built by cutting up pieces of Scripture and then piecing them together is false doctrine. When God has a message to convey, he conveys it in plain, obvious language. We honor the Scriptures, when, like Nehemiah of old, we read the Book distinctly, give out the sense, and cause the people to whom we preach to understand the reading (Nehemiah 8:8).

God has not trusted the treasure of the gospel to this earthen vessel so that I can prove facts, display intellect, and dazzle men with strange, novel, meaningless nonsense! God has entrusted me with the gospel that I may preach it for the salvation, comfort, and edification of his elect to the glory of God.

It is the responsibility of God’s servant to magnify his office by sticking to his business. — “Go into all the world and preach the gospel!” The Book of God is all about the person, work, and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. That means that if we handle the Word of God honestly we find the things of Christ in the Book and show him in all the Scriptures.

--Don Fortner