

"To believe in the power of man in the work of regeneration is the great heresy of Rome, and from that error has come the ruin of the Church. Conversion proceeds from the grace of God alone, and the system which ascribes it partly to man and partly to God is worse than Pelagianism" - John Wycliffe,
History of the Reformation of the 16th Century, Vol5

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)

110. Q. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10), we pray that God by his grace would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things (Ps. 67: throughout; Ps. 119:36; 2 Sam. 15:25; Job 1:21), as the angels do in heaven (Ps. 103:20, 21).

111. Q. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread (Mt. 6:11), we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them (Pr. 30:8; Gn 28:20; 1 Tim. 4:4, 5).

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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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ARISE AND SHINE

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
Isaiah 60:1-2

Many, no doubt, have been called from sleep with these words (borrowed from this text). Their use was only loosely connected with the intent here. Quite often it was simply a call to awake and exercise enthusiasm toward the activities of the day.

The call here is far more urgent in that it involves the propagation of the Gospel of Christ. It is far more promising as the glory of the Lord is in view. It is far more encouraging in that those addressed are to be instrumental in the hand of Lord to accomplish great things. It is very personal in that it is “thy Light” that has come. The implied subject is “you” and we are not at liberty to stand by and observe as a disinterested third party to these things.

The message here is directed to the nation of Israel and many would, perhaps, leave its application there. The parallels to the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ and those things with unmistakable reference to His attributes certainly direct us ultimately to Him. He is declared to be the Light of the World and the Light which lightens all men. The very next verse declares: *And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Isaiah 60:3.* Thus, the involvement of the redeemed of the Lord both individually and collectively is herein directed. Certainly, it is not in their own strength. That “The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee” and “the Lord shall arise

upon thee” assures us that the work and the glory is His in all that transpires.

This text is far too big for this writer to fully explore. Yet, the reason for addressing it should be obvious. We live in an age of rampant sin in the world and an attitude of “gloom and doom” even among the Lord’s people. If we lose sight of the great truth expressed in this and similar passages, the situation appears lost and we are tempted to imitate Elijah and lay down to die. Perhaps the problem is that we have forgotten the context of our existence in Christ and rather gauge our situation by the world around us. We would do well to heed the admonition of Paul to the Ephesians in reference to this passage: *Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. Ephesians 5:14.*

The text speaks of the covering darkness upon both the world and the people. Alexander MacLaren wrote of the characteristics of that darkness. He alluded to the darkness of ignorance and it is evident that the knowledge of God is generally gone from our society. He spoke of the darkness of sorrow and it seems that the world feels about for an answer to the ills that are self-caused. Overshadowing all is the darkness of sin of which all stand condemned and short of the glory of God. Even so it has become so aggravated as to even claim that such is the will of God.

While we are ever directed to acknowledge sin and sinfulness in all its forms, we are never directed to look there for a remedy. We are directed to that which stands in glorious contrast – “thy Light is come.” Perhaps, the profound words of our Lord have been dimmed in our minds by an irreverent familiarity. Do we hear the personal identification given to His people: “Ye are the light of the world!” We would connect that with the words here, “His glory shall be seen upon thee.” I once heard a wise man say, “you are what you need to be.” If we are the light of the world then it is because we need to be the light of the world. This is what we should expect of ourselves. Not, because we are capable or that we should appear in a way of pride, but because “the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” That happens when one is brought through the glorious process of regeneration and conversion and thus to a life of faith in Christ our Lord.

Much time is spent pointing to the conditions in our land rather than pointing to our reigning Lord. The enemy is real. He is strong, he is wise, he is deceitful, and he is persistent. Our Champion is infinitely stronger and has conquered and will conquer. He is our Light and we abide no longer in darkness regarding ignorance, sorrow, or sin as noted

above. Neither should we live in fear in any sense of the word. We rejoice as we read of an assured outcome, but this is right now. Are we just “hanging in there?” I am not sure what all this entails, but I hear the clarion call to arise. My Lord came into the world with the declaration that He is the Light of the Word. My Light has come, and His glory has risen upon me. The promise is implied and declared that in arising we shall have light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Perhaps it is time that we pray as did the prophet: *Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? Isaiah 51:9.* We surely pray for revival as did the Psalmist: *Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation. Psalms 85:6-7.* The evidence of a divinely ordered revival will be seen in the Lord’s people as they become responsive to His Word; as they boldly display the light of Christ that is in them; as they “Arise and Shine.” May we be found praying: *Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, Isaiah 64:1. bhs*

MY PRAYER FOR THIS GENERATION

After the last presidential election, many colleges and universities had to establish “safe places” in which refuge and counseling could be found by students unable to cope with the fact that their candidate had lost.

I am unaware of any generation in the USA before this one that was so ill-equipped for the difficulties of life that some event as inconsequential as a political election could drive it to despair.

However, this does not greatly surprise me. This present generation of college age students in the USA (commonly called Generation Z – the last generation?) was raised in a time unprecedented academically, religiously, culturally and societally. Government schools have evicted God and His Christ. Most “Christians” are so only in name and lip-service. Unchristian religions including atheism are increasing. Few parents endeavor to

lead their children away from the world and to Christ. In both our society and culture, immorality and ungodliness and the spirit of anti-Christ are becoming more pervasive. Current events suggest God is withdrawing His restraining hand from the wicked. Christ has been made to be “like a stranger in the land” (Jeremiah 14:8).

My heart cries for this generation. For I have family members and friends in it. And I dearly love my country and am greatly concerned for its future. If a political election drives many in this generation to despair, what will they do when they face the far more consequential events in their future? Where will they find a “safe place” and counseling when they are no longer in their schools? What is the future of our country when this generation is in charge of it?

How sad is the plight of those who are ignorant of Jesus Christ the Hiding-Place (Psalm 32:7; 119:114; Isaiah 32:2) and “Wonderful Counselor” (Isaiah 9:6)!

I therefore pray with the psalmist, “Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come” (Psalm 71:18).

– Daniel E. Parks

It is the hallmark of the saving ministry of His Spirit to work in the heart of sinners in such a fashion that the Father’s beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, becomes so irresistibly attractive to them that they confess, “Give me this Jesus, or else I die!” To accomplish this, the Holy Spirit teaches sinners how guilty and lost they are before God, thereby making room in their hearts for the Father’s beloved Son. As a fruit of that instruction, sinners see that Jesus Christ is the only solution for guilty and polluted souls. As the Spirit of the Father and the Son, He does not rest until sinners, brought to the end of themselves, embrace Jesus by faith; it is His special work to glorify the Son whom the Father loves (John 16:14–15). Christ Himself put it this way: “Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:45). Since the Father loves the Son, it follows that when sinners hear and learn from Him by the Spirit, they come to His Son. Coming to and believing on the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is therefore the ultimate proof that the Father, by His Spirit, is accomplishing His saving work in the heart of a sinner.

– Bartel Elshout

The Bible has no compromise whatsoever with the world. The Bible has a message for the evangelical church, calling it back home. The Bible always sends us out into the world, but never to compromise with the world; and never to walk in the way of the world, but only to save as many as we can. That is the one direction. So, my Christian friend, if you are settling back, snuggling into your foam rubber chair and resting in your faith in John 3:16 and the fact that you have accepted Jesus Christ, you had better watch yourself. Take heed, lest you also be found wanting. Take heed of your own heart, lest when all is said and done, you have become tied in with the world.

-- A. W. Tozer