

"...whoever is truly humbled [by the gospel] will not be easily angry ... will be compassionate and tender to the infirmities of his fellow-sinners, knowing, that, if there be a difference, it is grace that has made it, and that he has the seeds of every evil in his own heart; and, under all trials and afflictions, he will look to the hand of the Lord, and lay his mouth in the dust, acknowledging that he suffers much less than his iniquities have deserved." - John Newton

"Moralists trust in personal holiness instead of Christ. The Antinomian emphasizes "freedom" over holiness. But those who trust in Christ alone have been freed by grace unto holiness which flows from their union with Him." - Monergism

### BENJAMIN KEACH'S CATECHISM

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

Q. 19. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit. (Gen. 3:6,12,13)

Q. 20. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression. (1 Cor. 15:21,22; Rom. 5:12,18,19)

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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WXTH-LP 101.7 FM – In Richwood

#### Services:

Sunday Morning Bible Study -- 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship -- 11:00 AM

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 SECRET OF HIS PRESENCE

*Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. Psalms 31:19-20*

This Psalm of David is a wonderful source of example and inspiration to those herein addressed – those that fear the Lord. He begins with a simple declaration of pure trust in the Lord Jehovah and proceeds to pour out His needs to the One who has assured him that He is worthy of such trust. He sees the Lord as his Rock (v. 3) and determines to delight in the His mercy (v. 7). David’s sense of desperation is obvious in the outward appearance of circumstance, but his resolve in these worst of times is reiterated in saying, *But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. Psalms 31:14.* While going from conditions experienced to hope and joy in the prospect of mercy, David abruptly turns to thoughts most precious to all who would properly assess their present estate.

Awe, is the word that best describes the reaction of all who are brought to the contemplation of any aspect of the Lord and His glory. But, so is the wonder at those things the Lord has provided and will provide in “bringing many sons to glory.” C. H. Spurgeon wrote of David here: “Holy amazement uses interjections where adjectives utterly fail. Notes of exclamation suit us when words of explanation are of no avail. If we cannot measure we can marvel; and though we may not calculate with accuracy, we can adore with fervency.” Thus, the expression of David at the consideration of the goodness of God is expressed.

How often we have experienced such a

sense of respite in the midst of the trials of our faith. Just when all about us seems bleak and hopeless, trusting minds and hearts are enabled to see things that are out of the sight of the world and sinful men. The wonder experienced here is that it is not a matter of future hope only, but of present reality. Such is the provision of our ever-present Lord in giving both. David speaks first of that which is already “laid up” thereby demonstrating the ability of God-given faith to reach far beyond present circumstances to the time and place of complete deliverance. Indeed, the hearts of the Lord’s people leap with joy at every reminder of that which is yet to come.

But, there is another aspect of the goodness of God to us and in us. It is to be understood in terms of that which may be seen and experienced even now. Even in the face of such contempt for God, His Son, His Word, and His people, we are able to see up close the wonder of the operations of our gracious God. We are blessed with a present sense of that pure water springing up from within our souls. The translators fittingly inserted the exclamation point here in that the works of the Lord in us so effectively and efficiently face down the “sons of men.”

Men openly encourage pride in self and one’s accomplishments. They are fierce in the defense of pride and their sense of self-worth. In the interest of pride horrible atrocities have

been carried out and that most notably against the Lord, and against those that fear Him. The most horrendous form of execution was designed of men that they might inflict the greatest of torment on those that would offend their pride. We witness the greatest of all expressions of the pride of men in the crucifixion of our Blessed Lord. The history of martyrdom speaks volumes as to the wicked designs of men who, cooperating fully with Satan himself, have slaughtered untold numbers of the Lord's saints.

Yet, history records that many of their attempts to silence a faithful witness to the Gospel failed in that they died shouting the praises of God with their last breath and their testimony has endured. *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Revelation 12:11.* The world and the haters of God having done their worst have no idea how such could react in this way. This text provides an answer that none could understand short of regeneration and faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Have we truly considered that the Lord's presence is not only the assurance of our final salvation, but is a precious secret hiding place known only to those that fear Him? The world has no explanation for calmness in the face of

the storm. But, we know. To the world we may appear tattered and worn, wearied and oppressed, but then the Lord brings us to our spiritual senses and we realize that we are secured from every onslaught of the enemy and able to rest calmly in "our Light" and in "our Salvation." Anxiety and concern may rage in the outward man but then we hear the words: *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. Isaiah 26:20.* The Psalmist often wrote of this precious truth: *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Psalms 25:14.*

Slander and threats were often David's lot and a matter of grave concern as he sought to serve the Lord. His life was in constant danger. Yet, the glory of the Lord's presence suddenly appears with the revelation that he has been placed in the Lord's tabernacle and made to drink of the pleasures of the Lord in the very face of the enemy. In beholding the face of the Lord, we are preciousely consoled and abundantly blessed. *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalms 91:1.*

O that our praying would be such that interjections of praise and wonder would grace our hearts and our lips. *bhs*

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Conscious dependence on God is a spiritual habit that must be developed. ...take time to consider how you might grow more in this area of your life. Here are some suggestions:

- Take time at the beginning of each day to acknowledge your dependence on God for life and breath and everything else. During this time thank Him for specific blessings, both spiritual and material.
- Think ahead through your day. Acknowledge your dependence on God for all your foreseen activities of the day, asking for His direction and enablement in each of them.
- Commit to Him the unforeseen events of the day, again asking for His ability to respond to each in a way pleasing to Him.
- Seek to develop the habit of continually offering throughout the day those short, silent prayers that recognize your powerlessness and His power. Use whatever reminder strategies will help you develop this habit, such as sticky notes in strategic places or the hourly chime on your wristwatch alarm. Don't consider such methods too childish or

“unspiritual” to help you learn this important habit. • Most of all, pray regularly that God will help you and make you more and more aware that you are in fact dependent on Him for life and breath and everything else. Finally, don’t be discouraged by failure. We have all been too much shaped by our culture of independence, so developing this attitude of dependence on God does take time. It’s worth the effort, though, because as you grow in your conscious dependence on Him you’ll increasingly experience the joy of fearing God. –Jerry Bridges in *The Joy of Fearing God*

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### Arthur Pink on the Holiness of God

Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy” (Rev. 15:4). He only is independently, infinitely, immutably holy. In Scripture he is frequently styled “The Holy One”: He is so because the sum of all moral excellency is found in him. He is absolute Purity, unsullied even by the shadow of sin. “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). Holiness is the very excellency of the Divine nature: the great God is “glorious in holiness” (Exod. 15:11). Therefore do we read, “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity” (Hab. 1:13). As God’s power is the opposite of the native weakness of the creature, as his wisdom is in complete contrast from the least defect of understanding or folly, so his holiness is the very antithesis of all moral blemish or defilement. Of old God appointed singers in Israel “that they should praise the beauty of holiness” (2 Chron. 20:21). “Power is God’s hand or arm, omniscience His eye, mercy His bowels, eternity His duration, but holiness is His beauty” (Stephen Charnock). It is this, supremely, which renders him lovely to those who are delivered from sin’s dominion. A chief emphasis is placed upon this perfection of God: God is oftener styled Holy than Almighty, and set forth by this part of His dignity more than by any other. This is more fixed on as an epithet to His name than any other. You never find it expressed “His mighty name” or “His wise name,” but His great name, and most of all, His holy name. This is the greatest title of honour; in this latter doth the majesty and venerableness of His name appear. Stephen Charnock This perfection, as none other, is solemnly celebrated before the Throne of Heaven, the seraphim crying, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts” (Isa. 6:3). God himself singles out this perfection, “Once have I sworn by my holiness” (Ps. 89:35). God swears by his “holiness” because that is a fuller expression of himself than anything else. Therefore are we exhorted, “Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness” (Ps. 30:4). “This may be said to be a transcendental attribute, that, as it were, runs through the rest, and casts lustre upon them. It is an attribute of attributes” (John Howe, 1670). Thus we read of “the beauty of the Lord” (Ps. 27:4), which is none other than “the beauty of holiness” (Ps. 110:3).

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Without a believing grasp of God’s mercy, “there may be a sense of sin as hurtful to the sinner himself, but not a sense of it as hateful to a holy God.” At the same time, a sinner without a sense of God as merciful in Christ will fly from Him and not to Him. –Jeremy Walker