

Do not make a savior of your morality. We follow and obey Christ, not in order to be saved, nor to maintain our salvation but BECAUSE we are saved. Obedience comes from a renewed heart which is overflowing with thankfulness. Romans 10:1-4 is a perfect example of people who were zealous for God yet they fell short for they trusted in their own righteousness rather than Christ alone. Monergism

BENJAMIN KEACH'S CATECHISM

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

Q. 23. What is the misery of that estate whereunto man fell?

A. All mankind, by their fall lost communion with God, are under His wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever. (Gen. 3:8,24; Eph. 2:3; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 25:41-46; Ps. 9:17)

Q. 24. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A. God, out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, having chosen a people to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer. (Eph. 1:3,4; 2 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 5:21; Acts 13:8; Jer. 31:33)

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: branthjs@msn.com

Website: www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com

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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DIVINE ASSESSMENT DESIRED

Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. Psalms 26:2

It is characteristic of fallen man to become very defensive in the matter of his privacy. “That is none of your business,” is the retort of many being questioned about their personal lives. Perhaps there is an element of hypocrisy in all in that the desire of the natural man is to control the image he would portray rather than to allow the true image of his heart to appear. Such was the example of Ananias and Sapphira in the matter of their giving. It was not that they did not give significantly; it was that they conspired to appear to be what they were not. We often go to a physician and withhold information simply because we want to appear more fit than we are. When these humanistic attitudes cause one to fail in the matter of a true assessment of his need before God, the end is disastrous.

Paul did not tread lightly when he challenged the Corinthians in the matter of self-examination: *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 2 Corinthians 13:5.* He directed them to a way of continual confirmation of their identity with Christ through faith. He spoke plainly as to being found in the alternative way. To be finally found otherwise is to be reprobate. The Word of God, wherein the Gospel is the ultimate message, is careful to provide warnings as to the consequences of rejection and rebellion. So, the writer of Hebrews would warn of the fearfulness of falling “into the hands of the living God.”

Perhaps thoughts such as these entered the

mind of David as he prayed: *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Psalms 19:13.* And, such seem to be his thoughts as he further prays: *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalms 139:23-24.* True believers fear presumption on any count in that the room for error is infinite. In fact, there is implied in prayers such as these that they know that any assessment they make of their standing will surely be wrong and that is unacceptable to those who love God and whose desire is to please Him in all ways. Job prayed in a similar fashion: *How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin. Job 13:23.* The Lord, through Jeremiah pressed the warning thusly: *I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Jeremiah 17:10.*

In this Psalm, David would be subjected to divine assessment in three ways and thus invite a comprehensive examination of himself before God. This is quite contrary to the ordinary manner of men, as we have observed. They would be selective as to the areas in which they might be tested. Or, they would simply pay lip-service to their ability to perform without actually being tried. The manner of God is to provide and then to prove the genuineness of

that which He has provided. Spurgeon, Gill, and others suggest that the terms indicate a trial by touch, smell, and by fire. There is no question as to the ability of God to so examine one as to his character and his faith. What is very significant here is that it is the desire of David that he be so tested. This appears to be lacking in the lives of many of us in that we are reluctant to call such down such upon ourselves. This is inconsistent in that we would not be testing ourselves; it is rather the confirming of that which is within us by virtue of the blood of Christ and by the operations of the Holy Spirit.

Having had cancer in the past, part of the follow-up protocol is that I return periodically to the physician who visually inspects the sight of the tumor. It is not a pleasant experience, but it is one I welcome in that it is my desire that I remain free of the disease. So, it is with the believer who has known the mighty power of God in deliverance from the power of sin and would gladly have all vestiges of it exposed and removed. So, we pray for an examination by the only One who can make a true evaluation and effect the perfect remedy.

David would have His faith examined in the same way that precious metals are tested for quality and genuineness. He would have the Word of God fully unleashed as the two-edged

sword that can expose the infinite details of our case. Medical science has many diagnostic tools that are used to our amazement, but none is able to see what God is able to see and to remedy. Is our trust truly in the Lord and in none other? We need to know and to know it from Him.

David would be proven as to his love of the Lord even as Abraham in the matter of Isaac. He would be given occasion from the Lord to trust Him and to rest in the merits of Christ. He would have it from the Lord that his fear, love, and trust were true and of divine origin. Such would not be in mere words, "...but in deed and in truth."

David would further have his very thoughts, affections, and intentions subjected to the only scrutiny to be trusted. He would know the Word as "...a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The consequences of error in these things are terrible to contemplate. How shall we not pray to be delivered from presumptuous sin and the reliance on the flesh. Our desire should be for a continuous and complete assessment that we might be the more fit for the service of the One who has redeemed and delivered us unto Himself. *bhs*

Warning to "Carnal Christian"

A carnal Christian is said to be "one professing Christ but living carnally". This person lives according to his sinful flesh, not the Holy Spirit. His life is characterized by sinful deeds and words, not by holiness and righteousness. However, the "carnal Christian" is assured he will go to heaven when he dies.

That is impossible! A "carnal Christian" is a self-contradiction. Carnality and Christianity are polar opposites.

Carnal people are warned in Romans 8:6-8, 13: "those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh to be carnally minded is death Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ... If you live according to the flesh you will die" (cp. Galatians 5:19-21).

God's Word also says: "those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24); "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

Christians forsook their former carnality, trusted in Christ and abide in Him, live and walk as led by the Holy Spirit, and will never suffer condemnation from God.

– Daniel E. Parks

ON REPENTANCE

"The cleansing that we enjoy, through God's pardoning mercy in Christ Jesus, is not just an initial act but an ongoing blessing with regard to those continued sins over which we go on repenting. We must live close to the fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness (Zech. 13:1) and go there often as the passage of time uncovers more and more of the sins of commission and omission in our hearts and lives. It would do us well to remember that David's penitent cries in Psalm 51 are the confessions and concerns of a backslider, not an unbeliever. This is the man after God's own heart who sinned against his God and his Lord. Repentance is not a plant that flourishes only along the first yards of our journey to heaven, only to wither and die before we have traveled very far. Rather, it is a grace that—rooted in our fellowship with Christ Jesus—grows steadily and bears fruit increasingly all through our lives."

– Jeremy Walker, *What is Repentance*

"Your rest is not to be found in figuring your life out, but in trusting the One who has it all figured out for your good and his glory."

"God reminds us that this is not all there is, that we were created and re-created in Christ Jesus for eternity. He reminds us not to live for the treasures of the moment: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:19–20). Think about this: if God has already granted you a place in eternity, then he has also granted you all the grace you need along the way, or you'd never get there. There is grace for our fickle and easily distracted hearts. There is rescue for our self-absorption and lack of focus. The God of eternity grants you his eternal grace so that you can live with eternity in view." Paul David Tripp *New Morning Mercies*

"We cannot have a right conception of God unless we think of him as all-powerful, as well as all-wise. He who cannot do what he will and perform all his pleasure cannot be God. As God hath a will to resolve what he deems good, so has he power to execute his will." – Arthur W. Pink

"He who counts the stars and calls them by their names is in no danger of forgetting his own children." -C. H. Spurgeon