

From Monergism:

“They who truly come to God for mercy, come as beggars, and not as creditors: they come for mere mercy, for sovereign grace, and not for anything that is due”

- Jonathan Edwards

“Justice is when God gives us what we deserve; Mercy is when He withholds from us what we deserve; Grace when He gives us what we don't deserve.”

- Harry L. Reeder III

"A Christian must never leave off repenting, for I fear he never leaves off sinning."

- C. H. Spurgeon

BENJAMIN KEACH'S CATECHISM

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

Q. 27. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation. (Acts 3:22; Heb. 5:6; Ps. 2:6)

Q. 28. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by this Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation. (John 1:18; 14:26; 15:15)

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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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ONE THING TO BE DESIRED

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. Psalms 27:4

In facing the complexity of this present world men are often frustrated as they seek to devise a personal system for coping. The vast number of self-help books and other forms of media available bears witness to this fact. Of special interest is something simple and requiring little effort in facing the rigors of life. Reality often derails the best of human designs and they keep searching or simply give up and drop out. Such is the life of those with no vision and “Where there is no vision the people perish...” (Proverbs 29:18). The world-views of the many arrived at apart from the Word of God is a curious display of the ignorance of men. They will clutch at anything but the wisdom of God and the reasons of creation and redemption.

David had arrived at the only sensible thing as to a proper focus and was able to reduce his aspirations to one thing as is here stated. He not only saw it as a thing to be most desired, but also gave himself to obtaining that standing. He would dwell as it were in the presence of the Lord and among the Lord’s people. While men seek for entertainment and would be content to amuse themselves with the things of the world, the true seeker would realize that in beholding divine beauty in all its manifestations leads to gratification that is unmatched. Such is the desire to be found in the presence of the Lord and in the House of the Lord.

The thought of desiring the presence of the Lord is a great indicator of the work of

regeneration and the giving of a new heart. In the Garden, our fallen parents hid themselves from the presence of the Lord. *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. Genesis 3:8.* And, the ultimate curse upon Cain was realized in that we read: *And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. Genesis 4:16.* The most terrible aspect of hell is that of eternal banishment from the presence of God!

David was aware of great benefit in dwelling in the house of the Lord. In his song of thanks we read: *Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place. 1 Chronicles 16:27.* A further expression of God given delight to him is recorded in, *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Psalms 16:11.* At the consideration of such blessedness, it is no wonder that the precious words of present reality and eternal bliss sprang from his heart to his pen in writing, *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Psalms 23:6.*

It is important that we seize upon this thought as not being projected into the future (although that end is surely desired) but as something to singularly seek after in this life.

Charles Spurgeon wrote that "Divided aims tend to distraction, weakness, disappointment." This may have been the thought of the Apostle in writing, *That no flesh should glory in his presence. 1 Corinthians 1:29* and ended the thought with, *That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:31.*

I have often heard men excuse the absence of devoted service by such statements as "I have to make a living" or "I have to provide for my family." Such rationalizations would assign a higher priority to earthly things. It was none other than our Lord who taught, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33.* Neither this commandment of our Lord Jesus, nor the testimony of David advocated neglect of duty. It is rather that preeminence is to be given to living in "house of the Lord." To be given over to dwelling in the house of the Lord (the whole context of His inclusive community of believers, but especially in churches) will never be the cause of regret for opportunities lost.

This desire is reflective of the thought of the Psalmist elsewhere when he writes: *Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence. Psalms 140:13.* What a delightful absolute – "the

upright shall dwell..." There is no salvation and no hope thereof where the presence of the Lord is not the center of desire. The enemy would seek to sow the desire for earthly things in the hearts of all and the "old nature" quickly responds. But, in the end no unclean thing shall enter that blessed sanctuary wherein dwelleth righteousness. A thought on Godliness is that it is practicing the presence of God. The challenge is met, and the desire awakened when we respond with David: *But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. Psalms 5:7.* Perhaps such a thought was embodied in Paul as he wrote: *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18.*

It was certainly the aim of Paul's ministry in expressing his love for the souls of those to whom he ministered that they should so be found at the coming of the Lord: *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? 1 Thessalonians 2:19.* How shall we be found at His coming? O that it would be as with David – dwelling in His house and inquiring in His temple. *bhs*

Understanding imputation is of vast importance. Why? The eternal salvation of your soul is important? The Lord Jesus said the soul is of more value than the whole world, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matt. 16:26)? Imputation is the means of our salvation for if we pay for our own sins the end is eternal damnation in hell. The wages for our sin is eternal death. Our sin debt was canceled when Jesus received our imputed sins and paid for them on the cross. Our sins were "given" to Jesus. When He died on the cross, our sins, in a sense, died with Him. The righteousness of Christ was His perfect obedience to the Father in His complete obedience to the Law and His righteousness was imputed or given to make us righteous. In short, our sins were given to Jesus, and His righteousness was given to us. Technically speaking our sins were imputed to Jesus and His righteousness was imputed to us. In justification there is a

declaring of one righteous and there is imputing righteousness. Christ took the sins of the redeemed upon Himself, and imputed His righteousness to them giving them eternal residence with God (Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:18-22).

Thus all who have the imputed righteousness of Christ have an entrance into the perfect presence of God and into the glories of heaven, all on the basis of the salvation wrought in Christ. Therefore, we are "in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3, 20).

Ron Rumburg

I know there is a vast difference in the depth and distinctness of these marks among those who are Regenerate. In some people they are faint, dim, feeble, and hardly to be discerned. You almost need a microscope to make them out. In others they are bold, sharp, clear, plain, and unmistakable, so that he who runs may read them. Some of these marks are more visible in some people, and others are more visible in others. It seldom happens that all are equally manifest in one and the same soul. All this I am quite ready to allow.

But still, after every allowance, here we find boldly painted the six marks of being born of God. Here are certain positive things laid down by John, as parts of the Regenerate man's character, as plainly and distinctly as the features of a man's face. Here is an inspired Apostle writing one of the last general Epistles to the Church of Christ, telling us that a man born of God—

- does not commit sin;
- believes that Jesus is the Christ;
- does righteousness;
- loves the brethren;
- overcomes the world;
- and keeps himself.

Reader, if you have NOT these marks...

Awake to a sense of your danger. Arise from your sleep of indifference and unconcern. Know the immense peril of hell and eternal misery in which you stand. Begin to use diligently every means by which God is ordinarily pleased to give grace to men's hearts, when they have not received it in their youth. Be diligent in hearing the Gospel preached. Be diligent in reading the Bible. Be diligent, above all, in prayer to the Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If you take this course, I have every hope for you. None ever sought the Lord Jesus Christ in simplicity and sincerity—and sought in vain.

If, on the contrary, you refuse to take this course, and will continue as you are, I have little hope for you, and many fears. If the Bible be true, you are not yet born again. You will not use the most likely means to obtain this mighty blessing. What can I say but this, "the Lord have mercy upon your soul!"

Reader, if you HAVE these marks I have been speaking of...

Be advised, and strive every year to make them more clear and plain. Let your repentance be a growing habit—your faith an increasing faith—your holiness a progressive holiness—your victory over the world a more decided victory—your love to the brethren a more hearty love—your watchfulness over yourself a more jealous watchfulness. Take this advice, and you will never repent of it. This is the way to be useful and happy in your religion. This is the way to put to silence the opposition of the enemies of truth. Let others, if they will, have Regeneration on their tongues, and nowhere else. Let it be your care to have it shining forth in your life, and to feel it in your heart.

~ J.C. Ryle