

## Disregarding the Necessity of the Spirit

“...the immediate agency and operations of the Spirit may be restrained or diminished because the necessity for these realities is not regarded as indispensable by the preacher himself. We know from our Bibles that the Holy Spirit can sovereignly come upon even a dumb animal, such as Balaam’s donkey, so that the lips, the tongue, and the vocal apparatus of the donkey speak the very words of the living God to a renegade prophet. Saul can be found meandering among the prophets and the Spirit of God can descend upon him, causing him to prophesy. However, the Holy Spirit, who is a divine person, generally does not provide gracious and copious measures of His agency and operation where His presence and power are not treasured, earnestly sought, believingly expected, and jealously guarded.” --Albert Martin

### BENJAMIN KEACH’S CATECHISM

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

Q. 81. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbids whatsoever does or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbor's wealth or outward state. (1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 28:19; 23:20,21; Eph. 4:28)

Q. 82. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

#### 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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### COME MY PEOPLE

*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*

What blessed assurance is given to those who are identified as the Lord's People in the face of all that confronts us today. We are living in troublous times; yet we need not fear in that we are given, in Jesus Christ our Lord, a haven from all that threaten our safety. We are bidden to follow the Lord to the place of safety and peace. In witnessing the actions of government, the crime, and the outright contempt for the things of God we are constrained to expect judgment. We have a mandate through it all to stay fixed on our Lord and all that He has done and to faithfully declare His Gospel in the face of it all. We are comforted in the process as we observe that in judgment that is past, that which may be already occurring, and that which is to come that the Lord has preserved a remnant. These are they who, in the midst of trouble and turmoil are still able to hear “the joyful sound.” They are His peculiar treasure, and none will be lost. His relationship with them is most tender as we hear, “Come, My People.”

The judgment of God is always at hand. The question is not what is going to happen; rather it is what is God going to do? Here we have a precious precept given to the remnant to encourage their hearts regardless of the situation.

That the Lord has a people is well established. Many will, of course, attribute that to the decisions of men rather than the sovereignty of God. In establishing the fact that the Lord has a people Paul wrote to the Romans,

*And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? Romans 9:23-24.* This message is both particular and addressed in a particular way. The Lord is not in the process of acquiring a people; He has redeemed His people and is in the process of calling them to Himself. They are, “...even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

We are most impressed here in that the directive given to His people is from the Lord and seems to say, or at least imply, come with Me. This is not a set of directions or a recipe given to those who would be incapable of performing the necessary tasks. It is that we should embrace the relationship that He has designed for us. In Isaiah 1:18 it is that we should come to Him and reason. In Matthew 11, it is that we should come and find rest with Christ. The words of Paul to the Corinthians is quite endearing and should be precious and assuring to all believers: *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:16-18.*

The work of redemption shows God's particular love and so it is that we submit to Him all cares and witness all our fears removed. "I must tell Jesus... He ever loves and cares for His own."

The thought expressed here of "entering into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee..." reminds us of other such instances. Noah and His family were shut into the Ark and were secure while the waters of judgment prevailed over the whole earth. The children of Israel remained safe from the Death Angel as they were sealed in by the blood of the lamb while judgment fell on all Egypt. Rahab, the harlot, remained behind closed doors while Jericho was destroyed. The possessive is used in describing "thy chambers." Charles Spurgeon suggested that these were special descriptions of being in Christ. They are places of power that is not that of our own but is superior to any enemy of the cross. They are places where divine wisdom is evident in the design and are as secure as the being and existence of God. They are places where divine love and faithfulness are clearly understood. They are places where the promises of God are clearly in view along with the realization that the One who promised declares Himself to be the One who changes not! We are bidden to enter into places of meditation and prayer. *But thou, when*

*thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Matthew 6:6.*

It was God that shut Noah in the Ark and so would we be so shut in Christ so that doubts, fears, and any other thing that would hinder worship might not enter. It has been well said that "The strongest fort in the world is useless if the door is left open."

So, we are bidden to hide ourselves "until the indignation be overpast." The Wise Man wrote, *The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. Proverbs 18:10.* It is apparent that the indignation of the Lord is being expressed in our land today. It seems that He has "given them up" to their wicked desires and the consequences that attend such a way. In the midst of this cries of alarm with a note of panic are often heard. Yet, there is a remnant who possess a peace that passes understanding. These are they who are preciousy singled out and identified as "My People." And, they are sweetly assured, *And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Isaiah 32:2. bhs*

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## PEACE IN BELIEVING

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." — John 14:27 "You will keep him in perfect peace — whose mind is stayed on You." "Perfect Peace!" What a blessed attainment! My soul! is it yours? I am sure it is not — if you are seeking it in a perishable world, or in the perishable creature, or in your perishable self. Although you have all that the world would call enviable and happy, unless you have peace in God, and with God — all else is unworthy of the name — a spurious thing, which the first breath of adversity will shatter, and the hour of death will utterly annihilate! Perfect Peace! What is it? It is the peace of forgiveness. It is the peace arising out of a sense of God reconciled through the blood of the everlasting covenant — resting sweetly on the

bosom, and the work of Jesus — committing your eternal all to Him. My soul! stay yourself on God, so that this blessed peace may be yours. You have tried the world. It has deceived you. Prop after prop of earthly scaffolding has yielded, and tottered, and fallen! Has your God ever done so? Ah! this false and counterfeit worldly peace may do well for the world's day of prosperity. But test it in the hour of sorrow; and what can it do for you when it is most needed? On the other hand, what though you have no other blessing on earth to call your own? You are rich indeed — if you can look upwards to Heaven, and say with an unpresumptuous smile, "I am at peace with God."

--John McDuff

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## ARE YOU TRULY PREPARED TO DIE?

There is one who has written his last will and testament, designating his heirs and how his earthly possessions will be distributed to them when he dies. He has set aside funds for his funeral, so that others will not be burdened with this expense. He has determined what is to be done with his body. He does not know when or how he will die, but he believes he has made all necessary preparations for that event.

But he has made no preparations for his soul when he dies.

Such a person is to be commended for preparing for his death.

But he is foolish for not preparing for what follows death.

When you die, your body will return to the earth whence it came, but your soul will return to God for judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:6f).

God will judge you regarding whether or not you revered and worshiped Him and obeyed His commandments, the foremost being to believe and trust in Jesus Christ for the salvation of your soul (Ecclesiastes 12:13f; Mark 16:15f).

Are you truly prepared to die?

– Daniel E. Parks

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“Occasionally we hear that some public event has been “canceled due to circumstances beyond our control.” The fact is, however, all circumstances are beyond our control. We are absolutely dependent upon God for the carrying out of our plans. The person who fears God not only acknowledges this, but delights to do so. He or she finds great joy in realizing our dependence on the moment-by-moment care of our loving, sovereign heavenly Father.” –Jerry Bridges

“As far as God the Father is concerned, you were saved when He chose you in Christ in eternity past. But that alone did not save you. As far as God the Son is concerned, you were saved when He died for you on the cross. As far as God the Spirit is concerned, you were saved when you yielded to His conviction and received Christ as your Savior. What began in eternity past was fulfilled in time present, and will continue for all eternity!” --Warren Wiersbe

WHAT GREATER CRIME THAN HOLINESS IF THE DEVIL BE ONE OF THE GRAND JURY. --THOMAS WATSON