

This is the strict accountability that every preacher has to God. Every herald who steps into a pulpit is directly responsible to the One who commissioned him to the task. If you please God, it does not matter whom you displease. And if you displease Him, it does not matter whom you please. –Steven Lawson

### BENJAMIN KEACH'S CATECHISM

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

Q. 97. How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effectual to salvation?

A. That the Word may become effectual to salvation we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer, receive it in faith and love, lay it up in our hearts and practice it in our lives. (Prov. 8:34; 1 Peter 2:1,2; 1 Tim. 4:13; Heb. 2:1,3; Heb. 4:2; 2 Thess. 2:10; Ps. 119:11; James 1:21,25)

Q. 98. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effectual means of salvation?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them or in him that administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them. (1 Peter 3:21; 1 Cor. 3:6,7; 1 Cor. 12:13)

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: [branthsj@msn.com](mailto:branthsj@msn.com)

Website: [www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com](http://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

Volume 11, No. 47

November 25, 2018

---

---

### GOD’S UNSPEAKABLE GIFT

*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. 2 Corinthians 9:15*

A dear brother recently quoted John A. Broadus as writing that we should not neglect to preach familiar texts. This one is well known. We might, however, in a text such as this expect that the limitations of speech would apply equally to writing and so wonder at such an attempt. In taking such a text into consideration one will discover that infinitely more will be left unsaid than is said. So, why attempt to do so? In such explorations we find ever increasing reasons to worship and learn that there shall never be an end to the wondrous discoveries concerning our God and our Christ.

Of his vision at being caught up to the third heaven Paul wrote that he “heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” It seems evident that this was not a matter of restriction so much as a matter of limitation of ability. It is so in any attempt to wrap our minds around the greatness of our God. The realization here is that the Gift is given, and that any attempt to fully understand, let alone put into words will fall infinitely short of the mark.

The content of this chapter is familiar to all Bible students in that it deals with the essentials of giving. These things are set forth with good explanations as to what and why. Ample comparisons are made to the actions of others. Paul had spoken to others of that which he believed to be true of the Corinthians and would relate this to them for fear that they fall short of their own intentions. As the crowning word of encouragement Paul expresses what is, in fact, a doxology in which the Glory of God is realized in

His unspeakable gift which is none other than Christ Jesus our Lord.

Men, by nature, experience the need to place precise definitions and dimensions on the things which they consider. The mind may stagger at considering the circumference of the earth, the depth of the oceans, or the distance to the sun. Yet, they have a concrete number they can attach to the concepts and even instruments with which to measure. Our infinite God, in the Trinity of His persons, will submit to no such limitation for the convenience of men. At such time as a man thinks himself capable of defining or fully explaining God, to him, God will no longer be God. To those trusting in Christ, He is seen to be unspeakable and indescribable in His entirety and it is the same as we look to any aspect of His revelation of Himself to us. And so, we worship.

That Christ is the unspeakable gift here is understood. The thoughts emerging from John 3:16 and other passages confirm this. It is not merely the incarnation; it incorporates that and every way in which He is provided for our needs and the glorious purpose of God. We consider: *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: Galatians 1:4.* Thereby we understand our justification and sanctification. We would see also: *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:14.* There we further see the ultimate purpose of God.

We would draw from the comments of Albert Barnes and note some of the ways in which we see the expression of this thought. First to consider the greatness of His person. Immediately we realize that there is no language wherein we might express the extent to which He is great and the glory that defines Him. Thoughts of majesty and might immediately come to mind and both mind and heart are stunned into worship that words cannot match. We are made to experience such love that extends to limits of our experience and beyond and manifests itself in action that cannot be explained. We hear the words "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" But none can fathom the depths to which His suffering took Him. How casually the many mouth the words "Christ died for my sins." Yet, so many do not even pause to consider the extent of the suffering of His soul being made an offering for sin. We endeavor to peer through the darkness that descended upon Calvary and again realize that this too is unspeakable. Even as we examine the effects of the great work of regeneration upon our souls and all that has followed in repentance and faith, we find ourselves at a loss for words. Certainly, we are to bear witness and speak often of Him and our salvation; we do so with the realization that it is never enough.

Alexander MacLaren outlined his thoughts on this passage thusly: Unspeakable love,

unspeakable sacrifice, which brings unspeakable results. He further wrote: "He who has sounded the depths of Jesus most completely is ever the first to acknowledge that he has been but as a child 'gathering pebbles on the beach while the great ocean lies unsounded before him.' No single soul, and no multitude of souls, can exhaust Jesus; neither our individual experiences, nor the experiences of a believing world can fully realise the endless wealth laid up in Him. He is the Alpha and the Omega of all our speech, the first letter and the last of our alphabet, between which lie all the rest."

People of faith have and will continue to look to Him of whom Paul wrote: *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3.* We will continue to sound the depths, to ascend the heights and endeavor, as Paul wrote, to comprehend the dimensions of the love of Christ. But for all that we shall ever rejoice at each glorious realization of His person and work, the quest will never end, and we will find it all "unspeakable."

The other comparisons Paul made paled in the consideration of God's unspeakable Gift. How shall we approach? Surely, we will continue to extol the virtues of Christ, the depths of His suffering and the greatness of the salvation He has purchased for His own. But we will do so with the understanding that it is all "unspeakable." *bhs*

---

## Sinner Like You and Me

There was a criminal who was awaiting execution. A minister went to visit him, but there was not much response to his exhortation. On his way back home, the minister met one of his elders and told him about his experience. He asked the elder to go and see the criminal. The elder came back with great joy in his heart for what had been accomplished with him. The minister was very anxious to know why he had failed and the elder succeeded. This is what happened. As soon as the elder saw the criminal, he sat beside him, took his hand in his and said with much fervor and simplicity, "Wasn't it only the great love of God to send His Son into the world to die for sinners like you

and me?” In a moment the fountain of the man’s heart was broken up and he wept bitter tears. Afterward the criminal said, “When the minister spoke to me, it seemed like one standing far above me, but when that good man came in and sat down by my side and classed himself with me, I could not stand it any longer.” –copied  
The Humbling Power of Cross-Centered Thinking --John Piper (quoted by Tony Reinke)

---

### On Evangelizing

We have to conclude that a Christian with no passion for the lost is in serious need of self-examination and repentance. Even the atheists have worked this out. Penn Jillette is an avowed and vocal atheist, and one-half of the famous comic-illusionist act Penn and Teller. He was evangelized by a polite and impressive man, and had this to say about the experience: “...I’ve always said, you know, that I don’t respect people who don’t proselytize. I don’t respect that at all. If you believe that there’s a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell, or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think that, well, it’s not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward... How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? I mean, if I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you, and you didn’t believe it, and that truck was bearing down on you, there is a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that...”

--Colin Marshall and Tony Payne

---

### ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT

No process of manufacture can transmute cotton into wool, or flax into silk: draw, twist, spin or weave, bleach and surface all we may, its nature remains the same. So men-made preachers and the whole corps of creature religionists may toil night and day to change flesh into spirit, they may work from the cradle to the grave to fit people for Heaven, but after all their labors to wash the Ethiopian white and to rub the spots out of the leopard, flesh is flesh still and cannot by any possibility enter the kingdom of God. Nothing but the supernatural operations of the Holy Spirit will avail. Not only is man polluted to the very core by sin original and actual, but there is in him an absolute incapability to understand, embrace or enjoy spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:14).

--The Holy Spirit by Arthur Pink

---

We must never flatter ourselves that God cannot be angry. He is indeed a God of infinite grace and compassion. But it is also written, that He is “a consuming fire.” (Heb. 12:29.) His spirit will not always strive with men. (Gen. 6:3.) There will be a day when His patience will come to an end, and when He will arise to dreadfully judge the earth. Happy will they be who are found hidden in the ark, in the day of the Lord’s anger! Of all wrath, none can be conceived so dreadful as “the wrath of the Lamb.” -- J.C. Ryle