

By nature, I was too blind to know Him, too proud to trust Him, too obstinate to serve Him, too base-minded to love Him. The enmity I was filled with against His government, His righteousness, and His grace, was too strong to be subdued by any power but His own. The love I bear Him is but a faint and feeble spark, but it is an emanation from Himself. He kindled it, and He keeps it alive. And because it is His work, I trust many waters shall not quench it.” - John Newton

## THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

### I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter, that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Tim. 3:15; Proverbs 30:5-6; Romans 2:12; Phil. 3:16; I John 4:1

### 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 EXCLUSIVE CLAIM OF GOD

*To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. Deuteronomy 32:35*

Many will recognize this as the text for the sermon of Jonathan Edwards *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. There are probably vastly more people that know of it than have read it. To many, the very title would be a turn off in that they would deny that God could be or has a reason to be angry. The thought of vengeance is dismissed especially as it pertains to God. After all, they say, God is love and that is incompatible with such thoughts. With such reasoning it is revealed that they who hold to such thought neither know God nor understand His love. Furthermore, they betray the fact that they have no knowledge of their own depravity.

My first encounter with Edwards' famous sermon was in an American Literature textbook. I found it interesting that it should be included along with the poetry and prose of secular writers. Perhaps it was in the interest of showing the place of religion in the development of literature. It is doubtful that the publishers and authors were attempting to set forth the gospel virtues of the message. I don't recall whether I read the message at that time or not. I certainly have since and received it as one desiring that the whole counsel of God be declared. It was delivered in 1741 At the time of the Great Awakening in our country and reported to have had significant effect. I raise the question as to whether it would have the same effect today. What if this text and others like it were fully expounded today wherein the holiness of God is vindicated and the

justification for His anger were declared? O that men were shut up to the mercy of God!

The context of this passage is the Song of Moses delivered shortly before his death. In it he declares the perfections of God, the necessity of redemption, and the failures of the people. Many would argue that this is pertaining to Israel, but the precepts set forth here are born out of the character of God and the attribute of holiness in particular. He is the Lord and He changes not and so would manifest the same outrage against sin wherever it is found.

Some years ago, a documentary was produced by a former vice-president called *An Inconvenient Truth* which warned about global warming. What continues to be a hot topic today is neither truth nor is it inconvenient. It is owing to the audacity of sinful man to believe that God needs him to control the world that He created.

What is declared here is an inconvenient truth in that it calls to account the sinfulness of man and universal accountability before our sovereign and holy God. The image of God in the minds of many is that of a powerless father-figure who can only wish the best and is given to approve whatever his children do. Thus, we have vast numbers claiming to be Christian who openly embrace sin and would criminalize any opposition to their choices. Among other things, millions of unborn children have been sacrificed for the convenience of a mother's choice. If some have their way, newborn infants will soon

be legally slaughtered.

Men who are not changed will move to change God. His word stands and will stand when they are all perished forever out of His sight having felt the vengeance that is His to execute. Their hearts are corrupt and, as Edwards so ably declared, merit only the wrath of God. They are found to be bold and aggressive in their pursuit of sin and the word of God reveals who they are and tells them so. Part of the effect of their wickedness is that they self-deceive and look to their own abilities to escape that which the text declares as certain. There is an appointed time and their "foot shall slide." Their fall is certain should they continue and there is no recourse with God. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Jeremiah characterized it well: *For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Jeremiah 8:11.* And, we see further: *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. Psalms 10:4.*

I asked myself why I felt compelled to approach this subject. It is obvious that these things are not popularly preached. Men are being called on to repent (change their minds) without having discovered to them the real reason that repentance is a must. Men must be told that God is absolutely holy and therefore totally intolerant of sin. God does express anger

and displays wrath. *The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Psalms 5:5.* A few verses further on in this chapter Moses says of Him: *See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. Deuteronomy 32:39.*

God does not make idle threats; He will make good on both His promises and His threats. This sin driven rebellion will come to an end. They try in vain to change the rules and recast God in a role that is not in any way fitting. He is who the Word declares He is, and they have no place to hide.

The cross of Christ declares the determination of God to effectually punish sin in that as Christ hung there in the stead of His people, who deserve hell and all that pertains to it. He unleashed the full fury of His wrath and so satisfied His justice – He spared not His own Son. The suffering of Christ is to the salvation of those who call upon Him and the confirmation that all outside of Him shall be forever perishing in the flames of hell. This is confirmed in both Testaments: Vengeance is mine saith the Lord and He will repay.

Oh, that men would hear the cry from the Word of God: *Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. Hosea 6:1.*  
*bhs*

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"The observation from the words that I would now insist upon is this.—"There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God."—By the mere pleasure of God, I mean his sovereign pleasure, his arbitrary will, restrained by no obligation, hindered by no manner of difficulty, any more than if nothing else but God's mere will had in the least degree, or in any respect whatsoever, any hand in the preservation of wicked men one moment." — From Sinners in the Hands Of An Angry God.

**THEY THAT ARE ACCUSTOMED TO EVIL THOUGHTS CAN SELDOM BRING FORTH GOOD WORDS, NEVER GOOD WORKS. AS THE CORN IS SO WILL THE FLOUR BE. —THOMAS ADAMS**

## FROM MONERGISM

If passing an abortion law which allows a life to be taken up to the time of birth is something to applaud and shout about, then why not show the world how good, right and just it is? Why not gently place some mini-cameras from various angles inside the uterus and record an entire "procedure" taking place and then broadcast it to the world on the nightly news. If it's not wrong then there should be no outcry over this. You put all the other medical procedures on TV. Why not this one? Because it is not a medical procedure. It is the grizzly, barbaric and violent taking of a human person's life.

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(Charles Spurgeon)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

To try to win a soul to Christ by keeping that soul in ignorance of any truth, is contrary to the mind of the Spirit. To endeavor to save men by mere claptrap, or entertainments, or excitements, or oratorical displays--is as foolish as to hope to bind an angel with a string, or to lure a star with music!

The best attraction is the gospel in its purity. The weapon with which the Lord conquers men, is the truth as it is in Jesus. The gospel will be found equal to every emergency. The gospel is an arrow which can pierce the hardest heart--a balm which will heal the deadliest wound. Preach it, and preach nothing else. Rely implicitly upon the old, old gospel.

You need no other nets when you fish for men; those your Master has given you are strong enough for the large fish, and have meshes fine enough to hold the little ones. Spread those nets and no others, and you need not fear the fulfillment of His Word, "I will make you fishers of men."

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The greatest need of the church today is the recovery of sound biblical preaching. We need preaching that faithfully explains and applies the text, courageously confronts sin, and boldly trumpets forth the sovereign majesty, law, and gospel promises of God. This type of powerful proclamation has vanished in many quarters of the evangelical church only to be replaced by that which is anemic and man-centered. Instead of doctrinally rich exposition which strengthens faith and fosters Christian maturity, the standard fare has become informal, chatty, anecdote-laden messages, devoid of instruction in the truths of the Christian faith. This approach leaves unbelievers confused, and keeps believers in a state of chronic spiritual adolescence. There is indeed a dire need for the recovery of solid biblical preaching. Not only does reformation of this sort lead Christ's sheep back to the verdant pastures of His soul-nourishing Word, it also provides a good example for present and future generations of ministers.

-Joel Beeke in *Revelation: The Lectio Continua: Expository Commentary on the New Testament*