

Most Christians would be better pleased, if the Lord did not inquire into their personal affairs too closely. They want Him to save them, keep them happy and take them to Heaven at last--but not to be too inquisitive about their desires or daily conduct.  
--A. W. Tozer

“The sole means of retaining as well as restoring pure doctrine is to set Christ before our eyes” - John Calvin

## THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

### VII. Of Grace in Regeneration

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life  
John 3:3, John 3:6-7, I Cor.3:14, Rev.14:3, Rev. 21:27, II Cor. 5;17, Ezek. 36:26, Deu. 30-6, Rom. 2:28-29, Rom.5:5, I John 4:7, John 3:8, John 1:13, James 1:16-18, I Cor. 1:30, Phil. 2:13, I Peter 1:22-25, I John 5:1, Eph. 4:20-24, Col. 3:9-11, Eph. 5:9, Rom. 8:90, Gal. 5:16-23, Eph. 3:14-21, Matt. 3:8-10, Matt.7:20, I John 5:4, 18

### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: [branthsi@msn.com](mailto:branthsi@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

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### TO WHOM THE LORD LOOKS

*Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*  
*Isaiah 66:1-2*

In bringing the pride of man down the Lord can point no higher than Himself. The Word of God often directs our thoughts to Him, His person and His work. Yet, the pride of man persists in making claim to things that only God can do and presumes to offer them to Him in their own name. Such was the case of the Jews of Isaiah's day and the issue is addressed here most effectively.

The Temple had become a point of pride with them and the service to it had taken on the appearance of idolatry. In reading of the questions presented to them by the Lord it is apparent that they were taking credit for the building of the Temple and thinking themselves as being worthy of acceptance based on their works. Most had left the thought of serving the true and Living God and simply sought to comply with Temple ordinances and even that in a corrupt manner. The several verses following this text reveal the contempt that the Lord had for their offerings.

The Lord moved the point of comparison to an unreachable level. While He had symbolically manifested His presence with them, it was a grave error to think of Him, as men do their idols, as being contained in the Temple. The Lord directs attention to His own work in creation. Could they fit creation, His throne, and the earth, His footstool into a house they built. The Temple was designed to set before them a

picture of the means He would use to finalize salvation. A proper response would be that shown by men of faith in all ages. Those men looked to the High and Lofty One in whom salvation resided and not to something made by their hands. Cain's offering was unacceptable and so was theirs and any that focuses attention upon any but our Worthy Lord.

The trappings of much of religion today indicates vast effort and expenditures to call attention vast to the accomplishments of men and many do not hesitate to receive glory from those things. At best they give symbolic reference to name of the Lord while they go busily about the complex business of promoting their organizations under the guise of honoring God.

The Scripture takes the ways and means of men to task. Men are called to comparison and find themselves speechless at such questions as “To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare Him? (Isa. 40:18). Of need, He has none: *If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Psalms 50:12.* The error is exposed later in that same Psalm in declaring, *These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. Psalms 50:21.* Such is the wisdom of God that man should never

aspire to think himself on a plane with God: *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 1 Corinthians 1:21.*

Two questions are asked here by the Lord. The first is “where is the house that ye build unto me?” The simple answer was given by Solomon at the dedication of the Temple: *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? 1 Kings 8:27.* Such a house would, of necessity, be infinite in its every dimension and aspect. What folly in man to think that the Lord needs anything from him.

The second question is “where is the place of my rest.” The concept of divine rest is perhaps best seen in creation and its completion. The rest of God indicates nothing left to do. The Temple spoke of an ongoing work with its oft repeated sacrifices and rituals. So, in Christ, we are pointed to the place of rest and warned: *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. Hebrews 4:1.*

In view of such lofty concepts of the Lord that are given us in places like Isaiah 6 and this passage as well, it is easy to understand why He did not look with consideration to the claims of the proud Jews. It is amazing that He looks to any in the human race. *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that*

*thou visitest him? Psalms 8:4.* Yet, we are made abundantly aware of the eternal love of God and the fact that He has made choice. Like Samuel, we would look on the outward appearance in searching for those that might be qualified. But then, His ways are not our ways.

The term “poor” may seem relative in the sense of varying degrees of poverty. Here the thought is of having nothing and needing all things. There is no thought here of recommending one’s self to the favor of God and so we come in destitution. The Lord looks to the contrite of spirit. These are literally maimed (from whatever cause) and figuratively in despair of hope. In similar contexts (Psalm 34:18; Isa. 57:15) the word translated contrite means literally crushed. In either case brokenness over sin is the condition. And, these reverentially tremble at the Word of God and fall in worship before Him. The Lord looks contemptuously past the pomp and ceremony of men and “dwells in the high and holy place” with the likes of these.

Dr. Gill suggests that the words of verse 2 are descriptive of Christ. While we clearly see the experience of those coming to Christ here, it is certain that it is He that has trod the way before us and so took our place in all that was required of us. It requires the mercy and grace of God to bring any to know of their spiritual poverty, to experience true contrition, and to tremble at His Word. *bhs*

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Humans do not simply need moral improvement or behavior modification, but a new heart (Ezek 36:26, John 3:7). If the frame and foundation of a house is rotten through and through ... we don't merely need a few new beams, but an entirely new house, and a new foundation. That is the human condition. To think that we just need to be more moral is to have a false and wholly inadequate understanding of the human condition. And if our view of our condition is wrong then the antidote will also be wrong. People generally don't want to believe this though. It is too depressing to face up to. But we need to because it is the truth.

--From Monergism

## THE GOSPEL OF GOD AND OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS SON

In accordance with the Father's good pleasure, the eternal Son, who is equal with the Father and is the exact representation of His nature, willingly left the glory of heaven, was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin, and was born the God-man: Jesus of Nazareth. As a man, He walked on this earth in perfect obedience to the law of God. In the fullness of time, men rejected and crucified Him. On the cross, He bore man's sin, suffered God's wrath, and died in man's place. On the third day, God raised Him from the dead. This resurrection is the divine declaration that the Father has accepted His Son's death as a sacrifice for sin. Jesus paid the penalty for man's disobedience, satisfied the demands of justice, and appeased the wrath of God. Forty days after the resurrection, the Son of God ascended into the heavens, sat down at the right hand of the Father, and was given glory, honor, and dominion over all. There, in the presence of God, He represents His people and makes requests to God on their behalf. All who acknowledge their sinful, helpless state and throw themselves upon Christ, God will fully pardon, declare righteous, and reconcile unto Himself. This is the gospel of God and of Jesus Christ, His Son.

–Paul Washer *The Gospel Call & True Conversion*

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'It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High' (Ps. 92:1) – such words reflect the tenor of Old Testament praise. The Lord Himself is the believer's song (Isa. 12:2). Just as the preoccupation of praise is with God, so too psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are preoccupied with God Himself. The best praise in song centres upon God's self-revelation, and in particular the revelation He has given in the Person and work of His Son. So the more the words of the hymns and songs we sing reflect the words and teaching of Scripture about God and His Son, the more pleasing will our singing be to God, and the more edifying for us. –Derek Prime *Created to Praise*

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You do not glorify God only when you talk about him, or share his gospel with other people, or stand with hands raised in public worship. Those are all good actions, but they are not the only means through which you can bring glory to God. Far from it. You glorify God when you do good works. The apostle Peter wrote, "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12). Your good works make God look great before a watching world. –Tim Challies *Do More Better*

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Sometimes religion can be the greatest roadblock to true spirituality. –Ravi Zacharias

The phrase "in Christ Jesus" is used twenty-seven times in this [Ephesians] letter! It describes the spiritual position of the believer: He is identified with Christ. He is in Christ, and therefore is able to draw on the wealth of Christ for his own daily living.

--Warren Wiersbe *Be Rich*