

Obedience flows from the cross, it does not contribute to it. It is a fruit of our union with Christ, not the root. Those who love Christ the most are those who know how much they have been forgiven (Luke 7:36-50). So while some wrongly claim teaching salvation grace by alone will create people who continue to indulge in sin, Jesus teaches that it creates in us an obedience thankful for what Christ has done for us rather than obeying because you think it will gain God's favor. --Monergism

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour

Mark 1:15, Acts 11:18, Eph. 2:8, I John 5:1, John 16:8, Acts 2:37-38, Acts 16:30-31
Luke 18:13, Luke 15:18-21, James 4:7-10, II Cor. 7:11, Tim. 10:12-13, Ps.51, Rom.
10:9-11, Acts 3:22-23, Heb. 4:14, Ps.2:6, Heb. 1:8, Heb. 7:25, II Tim. 1:12

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

Website: 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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AS LITTLE CHILDREN

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:3

It seemed that the disciples of Christ were never able to fully understand the fact of the spiritual nature of the Kingdom of God. At the mention of the Kingdom being at hand their minds begin to do as the Israelites did with Samuel. They had witnessed governmental operations in other lands and decided that they did not want to be different. The Lord gave them what they wanted –Saul. We know the story and it was not what they had envisioned. The occasion of their disobedience was providential, and the Lord brought them a man after His own heart to rule. In David the Lord would typify the King of Kings and so point them to Christ. This literal idea persisted with the Apostles and others as they fully expected a physical kingdom with Christ at the head. So, they envisioned positions of power, positions of honor, and positions of promotion. Some wanted to start at the top and were chastised as a result.

Our Lord would deal with the issue firmly and at the same time reveal some precious truths as to our relationship with Him and with God. We are reminded that following the descent from the Mount of transfiguration that they were detected arguing among themselves. We must ask, were they aware of the encounter with Nicodemus and Jesus’ words to him regarding the kingdom? Physical things they could see and if Christ were being esteemed as King by them then surely, they were seeing and in the Kingdom. These Kingdom thoughts

occasioned the words of our text.

In Matthew 18:1 they boldly asked Jesus who should be greatest in the Kingdom. They were not prepared for the answer and neither are many professing faith in Christ today. On another occasion men observed “this is an hard saying; who can hear it.” The answer is emphatic, and I fear often given only a superficial glance. There is no equivocation; except you be converted and become as little children entrance into the kingdom of Heaven is denied. Two things are clearly set before us as essential to salvation. The first is the conversion of the heart to God (Robert Hawker). The second is to become as a little child. John Gill saw such an attitude as to “...entertain an humble, and modest opinion of yourselves, are not envious at one another; and drop all contentions about primacy and pre-eminence, and all your ambitious views of one being greater than another; things which are not to be found in little children. [Otherwise] ye shall not enter.”

The picture that our Lord painted for them was one of simple faith arising out of true conversion. It is to be noted that conversion is all of grace and the ensuing attitude is a basis for proof and accountability. John MacArthur observed that “Like the Beatitudes, this verse pictures faith as the simple, helpless, trusting dependence of those who have no resources of their own. Like children, they have no achievements and no accomplishments to offer

or with which to commend themselves.”

Of note here is the severity with which our Lord addressed the disciples. He offered no ground for negotiation. He would tell them later that the way to greatness was down. See: *And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Matthew 20:27*. He would demonstrate it on the eve of the Crucifixion by performing a servant’s duty on them. It would be without aspirations of greatness. It would obliterate self from any consideration of worthiness. We ask, at what point can the child of God ever feel good about himself? If there is joy to be had, it will be in Christ and not in any work or consideration of merit in us.

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he addressed similar issues. The example that he would bring most powerfully to bear would be the humility of Christ. As God, he had no equal. As man He condescended to the lowest and made Himself of no reputation and so suffered in our stead. He who is our Lord (And ye say well for so I am) not only taught personal humility, He set the pattern to which we all are directed.

The hardness of this declaration may lead us to ask what if I falter or what if I become self-promoting? Does that mean I am lost? My answer would be that if you can continue that way, then conversion has never occurred, and you are without God and without hope in the world. If, on the other hand conviction is brought to bear one will be driven to the position of a little child again. McGee observed

that this is not about reverting; it is rather of converting. In simple faith we trust as the child while endeavoring to grow as babes with the sincere milk of the Word. We shall never be adults in comparison to the stature of God in Christ.

The fourth chapter of the Epistle of James brings serious charges against those to whom he wrote. We learn there that the problem of selfishness did not go away. However, he directs them to the only remedy. He may well have said what he may have heard Jesus say – “become as little children.” It is rather that they “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.” Further on it is to “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up” – just like Jesus put the little child on His lap.

Is it time that we take another look at the absolute dependence we have on God and realize again that at our best we are but little children in His sight?” Sadly, we may not see ourselves in that way. Humility is essential to attract the attention of the Lord. O that we like Paul might see ourselves as the “chief of sinners” and be fully clothed with humility provoked at the sight our Lord High and lifted up with His train filling the Temple.

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. Psalms 34:1-2. Solomon saw himself as a little child – may we do the same. *bhs*

"We have come to expect God to be merciful. From there the next step is easy: We demand it. When it is not forthcoming, our first response is anger against God, coupled with the protest: "It isn't fair." We soon forget that with our first sin we have forfeited all rights to the gift of life. That I am drawing breath this morning is an act of divine mercy. God owes me nothing. I owe Him everything. If He allows a tower to fall on my head this afternoon, I cannot claim injustice." - R. C. Sproul

"I will not violate the teaching of the Text in order to somehow sound more appropriate to the culture." - Voddie Baucham

“The God of Hope”

Romans 15:13

What a great name this is for our God! In verse 12 the Apostle speaks of our Lord Jesus Christ, “the Root of Jesse,” whom he has given us grace to trust. Now, trusting him, we have hope, “a good hope through grace” (Psalm 146:5; Isaiah 11:10-12; Jeremiah 17:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; 1 Peter 1:3). The Lord our God is called “the God of hope” because all true hope with respect to forgiveness of sin and divine favor is from God and is effectually wrought in the heart by God himself. Any hope of which he is not the Author and Giver is false and fatal!

“Fill you with all joy and peace in believing” — True joy and peace are the gifts of God in Christ. Joy and peace generated by human philosophy, fleshly comforts, and emotional spasms of religious excitement are temporary. The joy of redemption and the peace of Christ are eternal and real, even in the midst of human misery and severe trial.

“That you may abound in hope” — The more we know the joy and peace of Christ, the greater will be our hope. Joy and peace, as well as all other spiritual blessings, come from God through faith and in proportion to faith. The more we are able to rejoice in our blessings in Christ and enter into the peace of Christ, the stronger will be our confidence and hope of future glory.

“Through the power of the Holy Ghost” — God gives us hope through the agency and by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18).

We have patience and consolation from God just in proportion as we trust Christ and find hope in him (Isaiah 26:1-4). —Don Fortner

CONVERSION

The Scriptures teach that prior to conversion, a man is darkened in his understanding and walks in the futility of his mind. Furthermore, his mind is hostile toward God, suppresses the truth of God, and cannot subject itself to the law of God. Consequently, the unconverted person has a completely distorted view of reality, and it is not an exaggeration to say that he is wrong about everything that truly matters. He knows something of the one true God and His majesty, but he does not think it necessary to honor Him as God or give thanks. He is filled with self and sees the promotion of self as the end of all things. The laws of God are written on his heart, but he does not think it necessary or advantageous to follow their dictates. Instead, he fights against his conscience and seeks to suppress what he knows to be true. He knows that all who commit evil deeds are worthy of death, but he does not think it necessary to fear. He not only does the same things but also gives hearty approval to those who practice them. His own mortality confronts him as death swallows up everyone around him, but he does not think the plague will ever reach his doorstep. To put it simply, the unconverted person is wrong and yet arrogantly continues to do what is right in his own eyes. He is on a way that seems right to him, but its end is the way of death.

--Paul Washer *The Gospel Call & True Conversion*

MANY THINK NOT OF LIVING ANY HOLIER, TILL THEY CAN LIVE NO LONGER. WILLIAM SECKER