

Everywhere among professors we find people who are Bible-taught, but not Spirit-taught.

They grasp the truth with the mind, not the heart.

Many professing Christians are caught up with the toys of contemporary society.

They may be going to Hell, but it is going to be a comfortable ride for them.

--A. W. Tozer

GADSBY'S CATECHISM

By William Gadsby, about 1800

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

Question I. Who is the only self-existent Being?

Answer. God is the only self-existent Being.

Ex. 3. 14; Psa. 90. 2; Isa. 45. 5, 22; Jn. 8.58.

Question II. Ought everyone to believe that there is a God?

Answer. Everyone ought to believe that there is a God, and it is their great sin and folly who do not.

Psa. 9.17; Ecc. 12.13; Mark 16. 16; Jn. 8.24 & 16.8-9; 2 Thess.2. 11-12.

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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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NO HEALING AND NO PEACE

For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. Jeremiah 6:13-15

We often encounter a portion of the Word of God that could have been written of current conditions in our land. Of course we are reminded at such a thought of the words of the wise man who wrote: *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9.* His declaration was that the depravity of man together with the fact that they are so predictable assures the reasonable man that they will not change. Nevertheless, they are ever engaged in the folly of pursuing sin to their own hurt while thinking that they can make things better.

As we observe the shameless manner in which sin is pursued, we realize again that this is not new. These to whom Jeremiah wrote had already been faced with the futility of their religious efforts. The Lord declared through the prophet: *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13.* The focus here is upon the religious leaders of the day and we would do the same for our day. The same declaration accurately fits what is happening under the guise of another gospel which is, of course, not another. Not only are they not ashamed of the

abominations they are preaching and tolerating, they are incapable of remorse – “neither could they blush.”

And so, it is that false prophets preaching a false gospel are running rampant in the land and the people are being lulled into a peace which has no anchor in Christ and therefore is devoid of substance. The role of Christ has been reduced to that of making men feel good about themselves regardless of the righteousness of God as it is seen in Christ and His teaching. And, far be it from any to make them feel bad about sin let alone demand repentance and the “fruits meet for repentance.”

“Slight healing” is no healing at all. It is to say that the disease is still there in spite of all that has been done. Many a person has been made to feel better or his symptoms have been eased but is still under the effects of the disease. The fact that it does not hurt does not mean that the disease is not still doing damage and that it is not progressing. We often hear of the death of someone and learn that they had no symptoms. Healing is a state in which the disease is gone.

We often resort to home remedies as we attempt to deal with a particular disease. But, who would, upon being informed that his illness is fatal, would trust home remedies? It is at this point that one seeks the help of a professional.

It seems irrational at the very least to act in any other way. But someone who would compete with the professional offers a quick and easy cure to a devastating disease and many are led astray.

Our Lord said that the whole do not need a physician rather they that are sick. Of course, He implied that they who had confidence in their own way of doing things would not seek the help of a physician. His message was that a person who came to realize that he was afflicted with a disease that could not be cured by the normal means should seek help outside of himself. Such will seek mercy in Christ.

Sin is an incurable disease that is one hundred percent fatal. The fatality rate is not exaggerated. Two simple precepts from the Bible confirm the fact. One, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" and "the soul that sinneth it shall die." Furthermore, the Bible declares that sin when it is finished bringeth forth death. So, why would any want to lead one to believe that he is healed when he is not? Yet, this has been the tactic of they who spurn the true gospel. They would tell men that all is well and encourage them to by-pass the work of the Great Physician. Their motive is rooted in pride and the desire for power over the souls of men. They would play to the sinful natures of men and thereby enslave them to a fatal deception.

Peace with God is an essential of salvation. Telling men that all is well when peace with God has not been realized is an awful crime. Yet, the need of reconciliation with God is not an issue with much of the modern religious message. Men are taught to do what seems right. Or, they are given a "canned" statement to repeat and then declared to be healed from sin, its guilt and its penalty. It is by the stripes of Jesus Christ our Lord that we are healed. He is made peace for us. No amount of well-wishing or ceremony or effort on the part of men can either heal or bring peace. I am sure that many under pressure from some zealot have repeated a statement or prayed a prayer and have then been assured that all is well. No doubt, they had a feeling like, "that wasn't so bad" and went away believing themselves healed through this effort. Yet, many such will be turned away by our Lord with the words "I never knew you."

Salvation is a work of Grace and mercy. It is given to believers through the suffering and death of Christ. His healing is complete healing. We must preach with the aim of revealing the awfulness of the disease with which all are afflicted that they might be driven to the One who makes the one coming to Him "every whit whole." *bhs*

(Revised and expanded from September 7, 2008)

Regeneration or The New Birth --by Arthur W. Pink

Two things are absolutely essential in order to salvation: deliverance from the guilt and penalty of sin, and deliverance from the power and presence of sin. The one is secured by the mediatorial work of Christ, the other is accomplished by the effectual operations of the Holy Spirit. The one is the blessed result of what the Lord Jesus did for God's people, the other is the glorious consequence of what the Holy Spirit does in God's people. The one takes place when, having been brought to lie in the dust as an empty-handed beggar, faith is enabled to lay hold of Christ, God then justifying from all things, and the trembling, penitent, but believing sinner receiving a full and free pardon. The other takes place gradually, in distinct stages under the divine blessing of regeneration, sanctification and glorification. In regeneration, sin receives its death-wound, though not its death. In sanctification, the regenerated soul is shown the sin of

corruption that dwells within, and is taught to loathe and hate himself. At glorification, both soul and body will be forever delivered from every vestige and effect of sin.

Regeneration is indispensably necessary before any soul can enter Heaven. In order to love spiritual things a man must be made spiritual. The natural man may hear about them, and have a correct idea of the doctrine of them, but he cannot love them (2 Thess. 2:10), nor find his joy in them. None can dwell with God and be eternally happy in His presence until a radical change has been wrought in him a change from sin to holiness; and this change must take place on earth.

How could one possibly enter a world of ineffable holiness who has spent all of his time in sin, i.e., pleasing self? How could he possibly sing the song of the Lamb if his heart had never been tuned unto it? How could he endure to behold the awful majesty of God face to face who never before so much as saw Him "through a glass darkly," by the eye of faith? As it is excruciating torture for eyes that have long been confined to, dismal darkness to suddenly gaze upon the bright beams of the midday sun, so will it be when the unregenerate behold Him who is light. Instead of welcoming such a sight, "all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him" (Rev. 1:7); yea so overwhelming will be their anguish, they will call to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." (Rev. 6:16) And my reader, that will be your experience, unless God regenerates you.

That which takes place at regeneration is the reversal of what happened at the fall. The one born again is, through Christ, and by the Spirit's operation, restored to union and communion with God: the one who before was spiritually dead, is now spiritually alive. (Jn. 5:24) Just as spiritual death was brought about by the entrance into man's being of a principle of evil, so spiritual life is the introduction of a principle of holiness. God communicates a new principle, as real and as potent as sin. Divine grace is now imparted. A holy disposition is wrought in the soul. A new temper of spirit is bestowed upon the inner man. But no new faculties are created within him, rather are his original faculties enriched, ennobled, and empowered.

A regenerated person is a "new creature in Christ Jesus." (2 Cor. 5:7) Reader, is this true of you? Let each one of us test and search himself in the presence of God by these questions. How stands my heart affected towards sin? Is there a deep humiliation and godly sorrow after I have yielded thereto? Is there a genuine detestation of it? Is my conscience tender, so that my peace is disturbed by what the world calls "trifling faults" or "little things"? Am I humbled when conscious of the risings of pride and self-will? Do I loathe my inward corruptions? Are my affections dead toward the world and alive toward God? What engages my mind in seasons of recreation? Do I find spiritual exercises pleasant and joyous, or irksome and burdensome? Can I truthfully say, "How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth"? (Psa. 119:103) Is communion with God my highest joy? Is the glory of God dearer to me than all the world contains?

**ADOPTION GIVES US THE PRIVILEGES OF SONS, REGENERATION THE NATURE OF SONS.
REGENERATION IS A UNIVERSAL CHANGE OF THE WHOLE MAN...IT IS AS LARGE IN RENEWING
AS SIN WAS IN DEFACING. -STEPHEN CHARNOCK**