

God knows and foresees our every thought, but He does not choose to save us because He peered into the future to see if there were any people who, in themselves, had virtuous thoughts, were more wise, humble or more spiritually discerning than others. No, being spiritually blind and hardened by nature, it is by grace alone in Christ that we even have the wisdom, discernment, humility, good thoughts or sound judgement to believe and embrace Christ (Deut 30:6, Ezek 36:26, John 5:21, 6:37, 63, 65)

--Monergism

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 XXXVII. What special blessings do God's people derive from the Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer. As all spiritual blessings are treasured up and secured in Christ, so they are dealt out to the elect as is most for God's glory to give, and His people's good to receive.

Jn. 1.16; Rom. 8.28-39; Eph. 1.3-6; Phil. 4.19.

Question XXXVIII. What is Jesus Christ unto the elect?

Answer. Jesus Christ is made of God unto the elect wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption; He is their head, life, strength, portion and their all in all.

Psa. 18.1-2 & 73.25-26 & 142.5; S of S. 5.9-16; Jer. 23.6; 1 Cor. 1.30-31; 2 Cor. 5.21; Eph. 1.22-23 & 5.23; Col. 3.3-4,11.

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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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THE DIVINE PROSECUTOR

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. John 16:8-11

It is in the loving context of our Lord’s words to the Apostles in the upper room that this most precious promise was made. They would wait until Pentecost to witness the full realization of that promise. It came attended by great power and presence. And, the elements of what was declared here were clearly expressed in Peter’s message there. What a wonderful way to express the Triune presentation of God as Christ declares that He is going to the Father and the Holy Spirit will continue the message that was first preached by Christ Himself. The Holy Spirit would, and does, convince the world by the declaration of the Son.

Could anything be greater than the physical presence of Christ Jesus our Lord? The encouragement of Christ was that what was coming and has come is better, and that they would eventually have both. It would be better now in that the Holy Spirit would communicate the indwelling of Christ and the manifestation of our Heavenly Citizenship. With Christ in the world the disciples had not been able to escape the idea of a political kingdom, but by the presence of the Holy Spirit they were brought to full awareness of the Spiritual Kingdom of Christ along with the very real hope of His return to receive them forever unto Himself.

There were many offices attributed to the Spirit in this passage. He is the Comforter in 14:16; the Teacher in 14:26; the Witness in 15:26-27; the Prosecutor in our text; and the

Guide in 16:13. Thus, we do well to respond to Him who brings such to us – we would neither grieve nor resist He who applies the wonders of the grace of God to our hearts and lives – He is the life giver.

As we consider the convicting work of the Holy Spirit it is essential that we acknowledge His work of conviction in us and that we be in expectation that this work might be manifest to others through us. The evidence that He produces is none other than Christ in us and through us.

We read in the preceding verse that Christ declared it expedient that He go away so that this convicting and converting work of the Spirit might be made manifest. And so, the “Sovereign Dispatcher” promised to send Him and by the power of the Spirit whom He sent we are able to sing praises unto our God and give thanks for the mighty work of grace He has done. The crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our Lord would finalize the accumulation of evidence to be presented and would and does confirm the absolute necessity of repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

The items of conviction were clearly in evidence on the Day of Pentecost. The Jews were shown that they had crucified the Innocent One. But all men are prosecuted in the light of the reaction they exhibit toward Jesus. The thought is that of rebuke in the way of convincing and convicting with respect to the

particulars named. "It is the work of the Spirit not only to lead by illumination, but also, to bow the hearts of some to embrace the Truth and others to be left without excuse." (Paraphrased from Matthew Poole).

Sin is elsewhere defined as "the transgression of the Law." What is said here does not undo that; rather, it looks to the ultimate confirmation of man as a sinner by nature. Sin might be generalized as all that offends God. It is identified as to its content and its nature through the ministry of Christ. The Law certainly spelled it out and it was declared as spiritual. Christ called it out and showed that it permeated the entire person. Thus, it defines the standing of fallen man before God.

To simplify it even more, in both the acts and the nature exhibited, it is man disobeying and defying God. The latter is brought to its heights in refusing the mandate to "Repent ye and believe the Gospel." Refusing to believe on Jesus it to confirm all the rest.

The Spirit convicts of righteousness as displayed in the life of Christ and in the approval manifested by the Father. The Jews believed Him to be the worst of sinners. "The world represented by the Jews...proclaimed aloud that he was anything but righteous. It treated Him as an evil-doer. But the exact opposite was the truth. Though rejected by the world, He was welcomed by the Father, welcomed home via the cross, the cross which led to the crown" (Hendriksen). It is His righteousness alone that is accepted by the Father and whereby men are

justified. He had declared that He would return to the Father and did. It is on the basis of His righteousness that He ever lives to make intercession for us – we have been made the righteousness of God in Him. It is the convicting and convincing work of the Spirit to extoll and declare that there is no righteousness apart from that of Christ.

All judicial power is given into the hands of the Son. "...all power is given unto me." He had previously declared that the "prince of this world" would be cast out. We are ever reminded of the words of Paul: *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. Acts 17:31.* The judgment of Satan was the confirmation that all following him would suffer the same.

We may look on these three things as mere truths concerning the operations of God. But Christ gives us reason that we should see these things as the active and ongoing work of the Spirit of God. Upon just such bases we preach the Gospel itself. It was my sin that brought the awful pain and suffering of the cross to Him. It is His righteousness alone that admits one into the presence of God and that is apprehended by the faith of God's elect. That judgment is coming is confirmed by the judgment that fell on Christ. O that this work of the Spirit may be evident in our preaching and our witness. *bhs*

TRUE CHRISTIAN THINKING – Excerpted from *THE HERD MENTALITY*, an article by Dr. Ron Rumburg

Some trivialize worldliness into mere external dos and don'ts some of which are not found in Scripture. What was the sense of this? The alternative to being "conformed to this world system" was to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind." The concern in the context of Scripture here is about the thinking process. Paul, by inspiration, reflected that the concern was about a mode of thinking rather than a mode of behavior

or it was the thinking from which the behavior resulted. Truly circumspect behavior is the result of thinking from a renewed mind. The kind of thinking in the world system, also considered as herd mentality, is evil because Satan, the “god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not” (2 Cor. 4:4). You know what happens to blind leaders of the blind.

True Christian thinking is transformed by the regenerating work of God the Holy Spirit. The genuine Christian has been broken out of the jail of the world system having received a transformation by grace whereby the bondage to sin was broken. Something is spiritually wrong when Christians in general have the same thought system and behavior patterns as the world around them. Something is spiritually amiss when theological leaders force the social norms of the world upon God’s Word. Something is spiritually sick that seeks to make the world’s way of thinking its cure. The herd mentality is “to be carnally or fleshly minded,” and we are warned that being carnally minded “is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:6-7).

From the context of Romans 12:2 it becomes clear that worldliness is a way of thinking.

I AM NO LONGER ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, AS I REALIZE THE LORD IS ABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS WILL--AND HIS WILL IS MINE. IT MAKES NO MATTER WHERE HE PLACES ME, OR HOW. THAT IS RATHER FOR HIM TO CONSIDER THAN FOR ME; FOR IN THE EASIEST POSITIONS, HE MUST GIVE ME HIS GRACE; AND IN THE MOST DIFFICULT, HIS GRACE IS EVER SUFFICIENT.

--HUDSON TAYLOR

WHOEVER HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD DOES NOT SIN

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (1 John 3:9)

What is here said of the seed of Christ, and their inability to commit sin, is wholly in reference to their spiritual nature. For thus the words express it. Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit sin. The new-birth, or the being born of God, which is the same thing, is wholly spiritual. ... And, as this scripture blessedly saith, it cannot sin, because it is born of God, and his seed remaineth in him. It is born not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, which liveth and abideth forever; 1 Peter 1:23.

It hath all things given to it according to his divine power, which pertain to life and godliness. And it is made a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; 2 Peter 1:3-4.

– Robert Hawker (1753-1827), minister and commentator in England (Cited by Daniel Parks)

If our lives were always pleasant and never challenging, our faith would scarcely be required and never grow. We would not be much use to the Lord in this life, nor would we be prepared for the life to come. —Jonathan Stephen (Cited by Tim Challies)