

No man's ministry is a failure, however meager the results, if he has been faithfully and earnestly preaching the gospel of the grace of God--holding up to dying, sinful men God's message of redeeming love. Such a ministry is not, could not be, a failure.

--Francis Grimke

Consider the preciousness of souls, the value of salvation, the terrors of the Almighty, the solemn day of judgment, and your own utter inability. Then you shall have no vain confidence, but depend on God alone. --James Meikle, 1730-1799

### 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 LXIV. How then can God be just, and yet justify transgressors of His holy law?

Answer. The Lord Jesus Christ, as the Head and Representative of His people, was made under the law to redeem them that were under it; and, in His people's room and stead, has fulfilled, magnified and made it honourable, wrought out and brought in an everlasting righteousness for their justification; was made sin for them, and they are made the righteousness of God in Him. Thus God is just, and yet the justifier of all that believe in Christ Jesus.

Isa. 42.21 & 53.10-11; Dan. 9.24; Rom. 3.26 & 5.15-21 & 10.4; 2 Cor. 5.21; Gal. 3.13 & 4.4; 1 Pet. 3.18.

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

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

Volume 13, No. 5

February 2, 2020

---

---

### WALKING IN CHRIST

*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7*

The fact that the Colossians had received Christ had been established and their faith had been acknowledged and commended by Paul in his greeting. Receiving Christ is that most profound change that occurs where repentance and faith are in evidence and one fully surrenders to Christ as Savior and Lord. It is not a matter of accepting or approving of Him, nor is it a decision arrived at after weighing the merits of the situation. It is the matter of embarking on a new life in Christ and realizing that they are no longer in control. It is not only to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ: it is also to embrace it. It is to reckon on living forever with Him with no other way being acceptable.

In this text the focus has shifted from receiving Christ to the manner in which He was received by them. The implication is that the way they had begun would be the way in which they would continue. There are several aspects of receiving Christ that, properly considered, enhance the joy and the effectiveness of the lives we live in the flesh. First and foremost, it is to believe in Him. It is to see Him as He is. And, it is to know that salvation is in Him and Him alone. Men persist in thinking that they are capable of attaining to the approval of God. The scriptures abundantly declare that they are neither able nor willing to meet the requirements of our Holy God. It is then that, where true faith exists, there will be a vision of the beauty of holiness witnessed in Him. His majesty will cause them to bow, His might will

cause them to surrender, and His power will subject them to His will and purpose. In all this there will be a sense of love that surpasses anything they have ever known or ever shall know. They will be completely enrapt at all that He is and will without hesitation receive Him. In receiving Christ, one comes to realize that all that is true of Him is engaged for them.

Receiving Christ is not a matter of mere mental assent. Many will acknowledge the logic of the Gospel message. It is rather simple in that men have not the means or the will to attain to the required state of holiness. Jesus is declared to be the Lamb of God. He takes the place of sinners and so the curse is lifted. Many are encouraged to profess agreement at just such a superficial level. They are then declared saved and secure. All of this can be done while continuing on with a heart of unbelief.

Receiving Christ means that one is persuaded in his heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and God the Son. They further realize that this same Jesus has accomplished their forgiveness by the blood of His cross and has reconciled them to God.

The example of our Lord defines the manner of our walk in Him. Peter wrote: *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 1 Peter 2:21*. With these words Peter points to the cross of Christ and His approach to it as a pattern for our conduct in this world. To many, the idea of an example is

found in the good works, pleasant attitude, or industry of another. Such leaves room for personal pride and sense of accomplishment. In the example of Christ, all was given. It was none of self and all for the objects of His affection, the subjects of redemption. As we receive Christ and walk in Him we are reminded of the admonition of Paul to the Philippians: *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Philippians 2:5*. This mind, commended to us, led Him to total submission to the will and purpose of God in His suffering and the cross.

This Gospel principle was exhibited by our Lord prior to the crucifixion: *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. John 13:15*. The example of which He spoke was that of taking a servant's role and washing the feet of the Apostles. This is the attitude that He would have exhibited in the believing walk. As we have bowed, repented, and believed in coming to Him, so would we walk even as He walked.

Such a walk is enabled in those who have received Christ and their walk is rooted and built up in Him. We are reminded of the "Blessed Man" of Psalm 1 who is "like a tree planted by the rivers of waters." The thought is not only of receiving the water of life in Christ but growing and prospering in Him as well. Their root is Christ and their planting is of the Lord. They are built and compacted together as a spiritual

house upon the only foundation which is Christ.

They who receive Christ are anchored in and act "according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledging of the truth which is after Godliness." They will be contenders for "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Such had been the experience of the Colossian saints and such should be the quest of all who receive Christ and would walk in Him.

Those who receive Christ do not do so with doubtful hesitations. Rather they are overflowing with the thanksgiving. That is the joyful way of acknowledging true blessedness. The prayers of the saints are attended with thanksgiving. Every thought of the grace of the Gospel and the Gospel of grace brings the reminder of the wondrous gift of His love to us. Paul would so remind the Corinthians: *Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. 2 Corinthians 8:7*. John Gill sweetly wrote: "...for all there is great reason for thanksgiving; both for the unspeakable gift of Christ, who is received as such by faith, and in whom believers are rooted and built up; and for faith itself which is the gift of God; and also for the Gospel, and the truths of it; and for every degree of spiritual light in it, and knowledge of it." *bhs*

---

How do I know if I have been predestined to be saved?

by Jesse Johnson

How does a person know if they have been predestined by God for heaven? The shortest answer to the question is also the best: Do you love Jesus? If so, then you have been predestined.

Unpacking that short answer shows you the Trinitarian nature of salvation. The Father predestined us before time (Ephesians 1:4)

This predestination is expressed through adoption into his family through faith in his Son, Jesus (Ephesians 1:5)

This faith is expressed by confessing Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:10)

and nobody can do that unless the Holy Spirit is indwelling them (1 Corinthians 12:3

When the Holy Spirit saves a person, He gives them a new nature—He gives them a heart of faith to replace their heart of stone (Ezekiel 36:26

The person goes from living for himself to living for Christ. The person goes from hating God to loving God through Jesus.

Thus an individual knows they have been predestined for salvation only when they believe the gospel, and see in their heart faith and love for Jesus Christ.

Taken together, our Triune God predestines, then sends his Son who accomplishes salvation, then sends his Spirit who applies salvation. All three persons of the Trinity are at work in our salvation. They have the same will, the same love, and the same intent. Thus the doctrine of predestination breaks into this world through every heart that loves Jesus.

A person obviously doesn't need to know all that in order to be saved. Instead, what a person needs to know in order to be saved is that they are a sinner, and are unable to save themselves by their own good work. Yet Jesus, who is the Son of God, died on the cross for our sins, and rose triumphantly from the grave having atoned for sin. Because of depravity, nobody would savingly believe that unless the Holy Spirit was enabling them.

To approach this from yet another direction: a person can only know if they have been predestined when they are saved, and salvation is evident in a love for Christ. That love is imperfect, and waxes and wanes through life, of course. But the only window we have into the saving and predestining power of God in the heart of each person who trusts Christ. There is no way to trust Christ for salvation without the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, He only saves those whom the Father has chosen, and all whom He saves will express that through a love for Jesus.

How do you know you have been predestined? The only way is by placing your faith in Christ.

Fortunately the opposite answer is not true—a person cannot say they have not been predestined simply because they don't believe in Jesus now. Who is to say they won't believe in the future? So if you are concerned you have not been predestined, ask yourself this: Do you want to believe the gospel? Do you wish you were going to heaven?

Then there is no magic to it, and no fatalism needs be involved. All who call upon the Lord can be saved. And once saved, they will see they were called by Him all along.

---

“The doctrine of sovereign election guarantees the success of worldwide missions.”

--Steve Lawson

“Depend on it! God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply! “

--Hudson Taylor

“The Church is looking for better methods--God is looking for holier men.”

E. M. Bounds