

“My friend, resist the conviction of the Holy Spirit at great peril—the peril that your conscience will become seared by your own repeated resistance so that you can no longer feel it being pricked anymore.” —Nancy Guthrie

“If God sent his own Son to walk through the valley of condemnation, rejection, and hell, you can trust him as you walk through your own valleys on your way to heaven.” —Dane Ortlund

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 CIV. Are God's people to expect nothing but peace and prosperity in this life?

Answer. In this life, God's people will find a warfare, for the world, flesh and Satan will be continually up in arms against them; so that in this world they must have tribulation; but in Christ, and only in Christ they have peace.

Jn. 14.27 & 16.33; Acts 14.22; Rom. 5.3 & 7.18-19,24; Eph. 6.10-18; 2 Tim. 2.3-4,12; 1 Pet. 5.8-11; Rev. 7.14.

Question CV. How then can they hold out to the end if the world, flesh and Satan are against them?

Answer. Jesus Christ, as the Captain of their salvation, fights their battles, and they shall be more than conquerors through Him that hath loved them.

Ex. 14.13-14; 2 Chron. 20.17; Rom. 8.31-39; 1 Tim. 6.12; Heb. 2.10.

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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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WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Among the saddest pictures of bondage are the actions and reactions of those who are deceived in believing themselves to be free. The Pharisees in our Lord’s day claimed that they were never in bondage to any man. Yet, they were a conquered people and were in the land at the will of the Roman Empire. Far worse was the fact that they were in bondage to sin. And theirs was the worst kind; it was religious sin. They were compelled in their bondage to reject the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He had sent. Instead they clung to that which Paul called “the ministration of death” and so manifested that they were in bondage to their own pride and so sought to establish their own righteousness and were failing in every way. That pride was characterized as blindness. And so, they were blinded to the grace of our God as it is in Christ our Lord.

In His earthly ministry our Lord provoked the Pharisees to their claim of having never been in bondage by the declaration that “ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” To their claim, Jesus further declared “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.” In the absence of the divine presence, sin rules in the lives of men, and deceptions and illusions of liberty rule their day. Many in our day are calling to memory the evils of slavery. There are two things they fail to realize. One is that slavery is still being practiced in many places in the world and they are blinded by other issues. The second is that they are becoming more enslaved by human ideologies

that reject God out of hand and move toward a far more hideous form of bondage. We are reminded that “whatsoever is not of faith is sin!”

As we witness the moves toward lawlessness in our land we are reminded of Paul’s warning to the Galatians: *And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: (Galatians 2:4)*. Along with bondage is the idea of corruption. In writing of the future deliverance of creation in the redemption Paul characterized bondage as just that. *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:21)*. In seeing the actions of the many, we are reminded of that from which we are delivered and rejoice in what our Lord has accomplished for us. *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: (Galatians 1:4)*.

We have both the testimony of the Word of God and the witness of history that men acting in the bondage of sin invariably act to bring additional bondage to bear on themselves. Their actions become the means of their judgment. They cry for social justice and are deceived in thinking themselves justified. As a result, they have no need of mercy and so reject that only just and holy One.

As we consider such thoughts as this, we rejoice at the presence of the Holy Spirit of God

bringing the things of Christ to bear and so free us from sin and its bondage. Rather, it is as written by Robert Hawker: "What a sweet thought is here suggested to the Church, in the divine presence, and the freedom he brings with him. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Yes! When the child of God, from the Adam-nature of sin and Satan, by regeneration, is brought into the liberty wherewith the Lord makes his people free; then they are free indeed, John 8:36. They then have access to the throne, at all times, upon all occasions. Having received the Spirit of adoption, they cry Abba, Father! And the Spirit beareth witness with their spirits, that they are children of God, Romans 8:16. They are freed from the burden of sin, from the guilt of sin, from the penalty due to sin, from the dominion of sin; and from all the terrors; and everlasting condemnation of sin. God's law is magnified, and made honorable in Christ. Justice is satisfied. The accusations of Satan are answered. Conscience is appeased; and the believer, having passed from death unto life, hath now found peace with God, in the blood of the cross: for there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Blessed be God! where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty!"

That the Lord is that Spirit is subject to some question. Some would attribute the term Lord to the Spirit. But the fact that just before that

we are made to see that the veil on the heart is taken away in Christ. What we do understand is that our liberty was purchased to us at great price to God the Father and to God the Son. He, the Holy Spirit is variously referred to as both the Spirit of God (Romans 15:19) and the Spirit of Christ (1 Peter 1:11). Here the identity of the Holy Spirit as one with the Father and the Son is confirmed. It is He that brings the truth of Christ to the heart and minds of true believers and as such they are free indeed as our Lord declared. We read further: *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2).*

How precious indeed it is to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit and so to be the servant of God constrained by the love of Christ to freely delight in the worship of our worthy Lord. What a horrible thought to be enslaved by sin. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Often God is pleased to restrain the movements of evil in this world. He has also given men over to their own actions and desires. We may be witnessing just such a time. Their course is one of self-destruction. The words of the Psalmist seems to sound his warning much louder today: *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. (Psalms 9:17).*

If there was ever a time to pray for revival in the land it is now. We have the liberty to pray big and to ask great things of God. *bhs*

NATIONS AND BLOOD

Holy Scriptures have much to say regarding the relationship between nations and blood.

God made of one blood all nations of people on the earth (Acts 17:26). The same blood flows through all the people of all the nations on all the earth. We all are related to each other.

The nations turned against each other and spilled their blood. Peoples of the same one blood have shed the blood of different ethnicities for millennia.

Jesus Christ assumed our blood in order to bring salvation to the nations. This occurred when "God was manifested in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16). The blood flowing through the veins of the incarnate God was our blood.

People of nations opposed to each other joined together in spilling the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:24-28). People of all nations have joined with them in piercing Jesus Christ with their rejection of Him (Revelation 1:7). Unbelievers of all nations are guilty of shedding His blood.

People of all nations, formerly opposed to each other but now trusting in Jesus Christ, have been made one by His blood (Ephesians 2:11-14). Jesus Christ, through His shed blood, has abolished the enmity between them, broken down the wall that separated them, brought them together into one body living in peace and harmony with God and each other. His people comprise “a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, ... crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9ff).

Are you among them! --- Daniel E. Parks

“Most of us don’t have a lot of control over the kind of things that are happening in the larger world around us, but what we have to remind ourselves as Christians is that God does have control, complete control. Not only is He in control, but all of what is happening is also part of His plan. God is sovereign. God is not wringing His hands right now crying, ‘What am I going to do?’ He is sovereign and He knows what He is doing. We don’t have to know the reasons for it. We simply have to know that he is good and trust Him. In short, we need to know the biblical doctrine of God. We need to know theology, and we need to trust our Father.” --Keith Mathison

Pastor John Fawcett, the writer of “Blest be the tie that binds,” was the pastor of a small but poor Baptist fellowship of believers at Wainsgate, Yorkshire, England. His salary was exceedingly small and inadequate to really care for his family. So, when Dr. John Gill died, he was called to London to succeed the eminent doctor. He preached his farewell sermon to the little congregation. When the wagons were loaded for the move to the metropolis, the sorrowing church members arrived to see them off. They had been an affectionate people to their pastor and now they were grieving and pleading with him to not leave them. Pastor Fawcett and his wife were overcome. They just sat down and wept. Mrs. Fawcett, looking in the face of her husband, said, “Oh John, John, I cannot bear this. I know not how to go.” John agreed. He turned to those who operated the van and they seemed to realize what had happened and willingly unloaded the furniture. There was great joy among the fellowship of believers that day to know their pastor would continue to shepherd them. This precipitated Pastor John Fawcett writing “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.” This day proved that the fellowship of the saints is more to be desired than money or physical comforts. He later turned down being principal of Bristol College and lived out his days with this fellowship of believers. “Feed my sheep,” said the Great Shepherd. --Dr. Ron Rumburg

"...PRINCES CAN MAKE GOOD LAWS, BUT THEY CANNOT WRITE THEM ON THEIR PEOPLE'S HEARTS. (JER 31:33)" - RICHARD SIBBES