

If you are not holy, you are not a Christian. – D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

While Jesus is representing me in heaven,  
may I reflect him on earth,  
While he pleads my cause,  
may I show forth his praise.

From *The Valley of Vision*

## THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH

By J. Newton Brown -- 1833

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

### I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter, that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Tim. 3:15; Proverbs 30:5-6; Romans 2:12; Phil. 3:16; I John 4:1

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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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### THE FINAL SUMMONS

*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-29)*

True believers have always lived in expectation of the return of our Lord and the declaration of final victory. It is suspected that even the unregenerate have a sense of not only the existence of God but the fact of a final accounting by all. This of course they would deny because the “fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.” It is thought that they are saying “no God for me!” The expectation of believers is based on the promised return and the desire of their own hearts for the return of Christ. In the last chapter of The Revelation Jesus says, “Surely I come quickly.” John then prays, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” There is neither expectation nor desire in the hearts of the unregenerate rebels against God. Samuel Davies, an 18<sup>th</sup> century evangelist, aptly wrote: “In this present world, our good and evil are blended. Our happiness has some bitter ingredients, and our miseries have some agreeable mitigations. But in the eternal world, good and evil shall be entirely and forever separated! All will be pure, unmingled happiness--or pure, unmingled misery!” He was commenting on this: *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25:46).*

Both eternity and eternal punishment are neglected doctrines. Even with believers the thoughts of eternity may simply mean to never be lost rather than the nature of eternal life realized in Christ. There is a danger with believers to forget what our eternity would be

apart from Christ and therefore what He must have suffered to bring salvation to us. The neglect of such thoughts tends to a lesser urgency in the matter of the souls of others. Sadly, much of professed Christianity is focused on comforts in this present world and how to live comfortably in this present world. This has not always been the case with the Lord’s people, and we see a day soon coming when our sole comfort will be in Christ.

The words of our Lord in this text came as a result of the ever-present challenges of the Jews. At the beginning of the chapter we have the record of the healing of the lame man at the pool in Bethesda. In that it was done on the Sabbath the legalists pounced on the Lord. What followed was His confirmation to them of two things, both of which angered them further. The first was that He had the same power to give life as did the Father. “Even so the Son quickeneth whom He will.” The second was that the Father had given Him the exclusive authority to execute judgment. *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. (John 5:22-23).* Of course, they understood that He was claiming to be God the Son. He proceeded to press upon them that their rejection of Him and His righteousness would find them in the resurrection unto damnation.

Men seem to hate to deal with absolutes. There is no middle ground or place of compromise with the Lord. Here He shuts them up to two possibilities – a resurrection unto life or a resurrection unto damnation. Men do not like this topic and I fear that many preachers are uncomfortable with pressing this truth on men. It is not popular with the masses and apart from a visitation of grace they will turn it off. Furthermore, the terms, as set forth in the Word are not acceptable to many. They do not like to hear such facts as that they will be judged by their deeds. They will quickly resort to such passages as are found in 2 Peter and Ezekiel and declare that the Lord is “not willing that any should perish.” But that leads to the question of are we willing that any should perish? I need not defend the fact that salvation is of the Lord and rests solely on the merit of Christ. If we but look to the cross, we will see that there is no place of compromise and so Christ bore the full load of the punishment for our sins. What He died to accomplish was the salvation of a people who would strive unto holiness and full harmony with our Holy God.

Thus, we find among the lovers of righteousness both an awareness of and a hatred for sin. Eternal punishment is a foundational teaching. *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:1-2).*

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We read from Daniel: *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2).*

The argument will arise that we are not justified by our works. And of course, that is true. But, where a work of grace has occurred there will be works. See Ephesians 2:10. Paul challenged the Romans with the warning that this distinction would be made based on what was witnessed in their lives. See Romans 2:5-10. I would pose a question at this point. How good are these works of men and how are these works good? The answer lies at the source of them. We are found accountable unto that which God works in us (Philippians 2:13) and are thus directed back to the operations of grace through faith. It is essential that we, as believers, look to what is produced in our lives and our desire toward the Lord if we would know true assurance and joy in Him.

In the same way we would understand the hatefulness of sin and the depths to which the hatred of God takes men. It is being openly declared in our Land and around the world.

The Psalmist wrote that, “The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: The God of glory thundereth: The Lord is upon many waters.” The same voice that called Lazarus from the grave will be heard issuing forth the last and irresistible summons to men. To those who love His appearing, it will be the most joyous sound; to those who have resisted every call on earth it will signal the beginning of an eternity of misery out of the sight of mercy. Pray for revival! *bhs*

Something has gone terribly wrong the world and it must be made right. There is genocide, terrorism, corruption, authoritarianism, racism, world wars, human trafficking, slavery, abortion, environmental disaster, exploitation of children, greed, abuse, anger, addictions, etc. There is a lot of moral outrage over these things, yet most people do not have any coherent explanation of why humanity is in such a mess. Many believe much of what ails us are things like psychological trauma, self-esteem problems and addiction, and while there may be some superficial truth in this, our problem really

runs much deeper than this. These behavioral problems are but the symptoms, not the underlying disease.

What's amazing it that people keep trying the same solutions that have never worked. Each week the masses on social media are outraged at the latest contemporary scandal or injustice but seem to only offer superficial ways of treating the symptoms (law), but rarely offer a cure for the underlying disease (the gospel). The solutions offered are usually vague, non-descript and amorphous. Fact is, you can put in place all the good laws in the world but they will do next to nothing to change the evil of men's hearts. It may restrain evil to an extent, and that's good (and necessary), but it will never, ever resolve the underlying cancer that causes the problem in the first place.

The problem with the world starts with me. Good and evil run right down the center of my own heart. Lord have mercy on me. There is no hope for me if I am left to myself. Thank God for Jesus Christ, who saves sinners like me... and who is coming as the sovereign King to bring all things in the light and make all things right.

--John Hendryx

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The fruitfulness of Brownlow North's ministry led him to become known as the 'John the Baptist of the great awakening of 1859'. But this largely forgotten evangelist of the nineteenth century has much to teach us still today. Though these rules were written to help young believers, they remain relevant to Christians of all ages and experience.

i. Never neglect daily private prayer; and when you pray, remember that God is present, and that he hears your prayers (Heb. 11:6).

ii. Never neglect daily private Bible-reading; and when you read, remember that God is speaking to you, and that you are to believe and act upon what he says. I believe all backsliding begins with the neglect of these two rules (John 5:39).

iii. Never let a day pass without trying to do something for Jesus. Every night reflect on what Jesus has done for you, and then ask yourself, What am I doing for him? (Matt. 5:13-16).

iv. If you are in doubt as to a thing being right or wrong, go to your room, and kneel down and ask God's blessing upon it (Col. 3:17). If you cannot do this, it is wrong (Rom. 14:23).

v. Never take your Christianity from Christians, or argue that because such and such people do so and so, that therefore you may (2 Cor. 10:12). You are to ask yourself, How would Christ act in my place? and strive to follow him (John 10:27).

vi. Never believe what you feel, if it contradicts God's Word. Ask yourself, Can what I feel be true, if God's Word is true? and if both cannot be true, believe God, and make your own heart the liar. (Rom. 3:4; 1 John 5:10, 11).

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**GOD IS GOD; YOU ARE BUT ONE OF HIS CREATURES. YOUR ONLY JOY IS TO BE FOUND IN OBEYING HIM, YOUR TRUE FULFILLMENT IS TO BE FOUND IN WORSHIPPING HIM, YOUR ONLY WISDOM IS TO BE FOUND IN TRUSTING AND KNOWING HIM.**

--SINCLAIR FERGUSON