

“Sometimes I go to God and say, "God, if Thou dost never answer another prayer while I live on this earth, I will still worship Thee as long as I live and in the ages to come for what Thou hast done already. God’s already put me so far in debt that if I were to live one million millenniums I couldn't pay Him for what He’s done for me.” A. W. Tozer (Contributed by Kelly Tyler)

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)

XI. Of Perseverance of the Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end: that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

John 8:31; I John 2:27-28; I John 3:9; I John 5:18; I John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Ps.121:3; Ps. 91:11-12; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 2:13; Jude 24:25; Heb.1:14; II Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; I John 4:4

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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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I SHALL ARISE

Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness. (Micah 7:7-9)

Who among us does not long for an outward display of the glory of God and a manifestation of His power in the midst of this wicked and untoward generation? The prophet Micah wrote, *Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit. (Micah 7:1).* The lamentation of the prophet certainly finds an application today as we are made to observe the effect of God leaving men to their own devices. We who delight in the knowledge of the sovereignty of God know that He has not relinquished His claims to all His creation, nor has He retracted the demand that all men everywhere repent. But we want to see and experience the operations of the Spirit of God in such a way as to put the wicked one in flight and the manifestation of the righteousness of God to be seen in the lives of God's people.

In the preceding verses the prophet sets forth the causes of the terrible circumstances and the reason that he determines to look to the Lord. James Boice observed that the prophet calls attention to a “monumental breakdown” of society in three ways. The first of these is the breakdown of morality. The good men had been swept away and, in general, there was none upright among men. It was even as Paul reflected that there is none that

understands, none that seeks after God. Immorality in our day has been made legitimate and even claimed as a right. The second thing is a breakdown in national leadership. In verse three the corruptness of leaders is called out and self-seeking goals, bribery, and anything but the interest of those being led is found among them. The third thing is the breakdown of family. Friends cannot be trusted nor can there be any true confidence in what should be the closest of family relationships. One of the most severe warnings to the children of Israel was concerning the idolatrous practice of sacrificing children. Even this has become common practice as parents abdicate their responsibility and some even destroy their own children.

It is evident that the prophet found no reason of hope among men nor did he see any movement toward the Lord in those identified. He then acknowledges the one and only source of hope. He would look to Jehovah with full confidence in the ability that lies in Him alone. He seems to have abandoned hope in any method or personal place of action. His was to repent and acknowledge the Lord. His determination was to wait. That is, He would see the Lord's resolution in this matter. After all, He is the God of salvation and was the “God of my salvation.” In that Micah understood the Lord as such there was further confidence.

Being the God of his salvation, he was assured the Lord had a vested interest in his salvation and every aspect of it. Micah, like all who know Him, have been saved for the glory of God. Armed with that knowledge he was assured of being heard. *But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him. (Psalms 4:3)*

In verse 8, he challenges the gloating of the enemy. I have not witnessed in my lifetime, at any level, the contempt for God, the Word of God, and the people of God that is openly displayed in America today. If it were a few isolated individuals, we might understand. But this is occurring at every level of society and even in the highest levels of government. The effort is to obliterate the name of God and the Christ of our salvation.

And so, the prophet acknowledges personal weakness; he may fall. But the assurance is given concerning a good man: *Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. (Psalms 37:24)*. It is certainly a dark time in which we live. Again, the prophet's resource is the Lord. Elsewhere we read that "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" Often as I have desired the "firstripe fruit" I have been reminded of the words of another prophet: *Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. (Isaiah 50:10)*. So, must our focus be directed away from the rage that we hear about us today from every corner and directed unto the One who will not abandon His glory, will not abdicate the throne of His sovereignty, and who is

reigning on High having conquered every foe. His name is above them all!

The prophet was careful to acknowledge the indignation of the Lord – His anger at sin in any form. The Lord's people do not hesitate to repent of their own offences and will confess accordingly: *We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: (Daniel 9:5)*. Even in the face of all that is declared in the Word of God many continue to demand justification for whatever seems right. Will we acknowledge with the prophet here and confess "I have sinned?" May we thus cast ourselves on His mercy and recognize that it is He that must plead (the merits of His blood), that He must execute judgment (He is holy), and we must believe that He will bring us forth to the light and so shall we behold His righteousness. Indeed, "I shall arise."

Job's young friend observed that none were looking to the Lord (Job 35:10); rather they were looking to themselves for solutions that exist only with the God of our salvation. Elisha understood the power of God upon a life of service and so, at the departure of Elijah, cried "Where is the Lord God of Elijah." Dare we ask? Can we truly sing of the mighty power of God? Do we look from out of the darkness that surrounds and see that the "True Light" is shining as brightly as ever? And may we pray that: *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)*, would be the experience of many. *bhs*

He who counts the stars and calls them by their names, is in no danger of forgetting His own children! He knows your case as thoroughly as if you were the only creature He ever made, or the only saint He ever loved! – C. H. Spurgeon

From an email on August 16, 2020:

We are drawn to more prayer for the condition spiritually of the congregations we pastor and the pleading for the wayward country in which we live. "Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.... Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" Iain Murray noted, "We only reach sure ground when we remember that revivals are the work of the Spirit of truth bringing home to the mind and conscience of large numbers the teaching of the Word of God with efficacious power. If through the unfaithfulness or ignorance of men that teaching has its cutting edge smoothed down; if such truths as Christ's finished work at Calvary, together with the entire dependence of sinners upon him for salvation are not preached, and the reliability of God's word not fully declared, then hope that the Holy Spirit will do his work is a terrible mistake. If there is any lesson which ought to be beyond doubt it is that revivals come through the preaching of scriptural truth." I find this sobering and believe it true. Oh, how certain it is that without the Lord we can do nothing.

Oh, that the Lord whom we serve would be pleased to bless and use us today for His glory and the good of His sheep.

--Dr. Ron Rumburg

When the Gospel Comes in Power

The Apostle Paul speaks of the gospel coming to men and women. But he also speaks of the gospel coming "not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance" (1 Thessalonians 1:5). And there is a difference, a great difference. When the gospel comes in power, God speaks, conviction is wrought in the heart, Christ is revealed, life is given to dead sinners, faith is given to those who had no faith, and God is glorified in the hearts of men. When the gospel comes in power, the saints of God are comforted, reproved, encouraged, rebuked, humbled, and edified. Oh, how I pray that as I preach to you this hour the gospel will come to you in the life-giving power of God the Holy Ghost and in much assurance!

--Donald S. Fortner (1950-2020)

"Blessed are they that mourn."

Christ was indeed the chief Mourner. Old Testament prophecy contemplated Him as "the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief." See Him "grieved for the hardness of their hearts" (Mark 3:5) Behold Him "sighing" before He healed the deaf and dumb man (Mark 7:34). Mark Him weeping by the grave side of Lazarus. Hear His lamentation over the beloved city, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often would I have gathered your children together" (Matt. 23:37). Draw near and reverently behold Him in the gloom of Gethsemane, pouring out His petitions to the Father "with strong crying and tears" (Heb. 5:7). Bow in worshipful wonderment as you hear Him crying from the cross, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me!' Harken to His plaintive plea, "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold, and see if there is any sorrow like unto My sorrow" (Lam. 1:12). -A. W. Pink