

Christ will slight them at the day of judgment, who have slighted him in the day of grace. — Thomas Watson

Thank God you have got a Father that can be angry, but that loves you as much when He is angry as when He smiles upon you. —C.H. Spurgeon

### 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)*

#### XIII. Of a Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus. I Cor. 1:1-3; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; Acts 8:1; Acts 11:21-23; I Cor. 4:17; I Cor. 14:23; III John 9; I Tim. 3:5; Acts 2:41-42; II Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; I Cor. 5:12-13; I Cor. 11:2; II Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; I Cor.11:23-24; Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5:6; II Cor. 2:17; I Cor. 4:17; Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; John 15:12; I John 14:21; I Thess. 4:2; II John 6; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:7; I Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; I Tim. 3; Titus 1

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

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

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### MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. (Psalms 28:7-8)*

The Apostle Paul declared to the Philippians that he could “do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” At the time of his writing those words he had experienced the substance of that statement “through many dangers toils and snares.” His life had been marked out by outward persecution and he had known victory in every case. He was certainly resting in the Lord and His abilities but was witnessing the outcome of that confidence in strength worked in him. It is to be feared that many claim to look to the Lord with the expectation that He will accomplish their desires apart from their own involvement. Not only in the life of Paul, but also in the life of David do we see that true praise is the outward result of witnessing what is done within us.

Some have suggested that David wrote this in conjunction with the persecutions of Saul. Others think it was written after the rebellion of Absalom. But we may observe that as soon as the stamp of our Lord is placed upon a person that the enemies of Christ and the Gospel conspire to persecute and destroy. It was not David that was the objective; it was David as the Lord’s anointed. It was not Paul that was the object of contempt; it was Paul as the Ambassador for Christ. We may expect the same treatment from the enemy as David, Paul, and all others that love the Lord and seek to please Him.

Three distinct statements are to be found in

this text relating to David’s faith and dependence on the Lord. His faith embraced and claimed that the Lord was his strength and shield. His heart was then fully engaged in trusting the Lord. And his heart was then drawn out in true worship and praise. Matthew Henry saw this as David’s dependence on the Lord, His experience with the Lord, and his heart rejoicing in the Lord. In consideration of such thought we see that there can be no separating of these elements. Furthermore, we may conclude that such a way of engagement in this present world should look to this pattern witnessed in the inspired testimony of David.

C. H. Spurgeon saw David as taking a double grip on the Lord. He was both strength and shield. David was emphatic in saying the Lord was “My strength” and “My shield” thus taking possession of these things as if they were his; and so, they were. It is easy to say that the Lord is any of those things stated in the list of things true about Him. It is even good to note that all that the Lord has revealed of Himself to us is engaged in the divine work of redemption. But it is when these things result in personal courage and boldness in the cause of Christ that the battle is made to be ours. So, we find David facing the giant Goliath, and standing when it seemed that all was lost. We find Paul and the other Apostles facing down the enemies of the Gospel in an unwavering manifestation of strength. The strength here spoken of is inward

and the means of taking the offense in the cause of Christ. The shield is outward, and we are reminded that we are to take the "shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked."

The faith of David was vindicated in all that he had experienced. His trust was not the result of a logical conclusion arrived at through human wisdom and knowledge. It was not based on the word of others. It was his heart that fully embraced the hope that is the Lord Himself. David's trust in the Lord had become inseparable from who David was. His trust in the Lord was fully internalized. The outward result was "I am helped." Spurgeon said that "Heart work is sure work; heart trust is never disappointed." So, David was able to declare "I am helped." We cannot help but note that he speaks in the present tense. He borrows from the name of Him who declares, "I AM THAT I AM." Of a certainty David had been helped, he was being helped, and he was assured of that help in the future. He was not merely speaking of events; he was describing his life as being helped.

David uses the expression "My heart" a second time. In consideration of all this, which he comprehended on a spiritual level, he could say that his heart is rejoicing. He did not say his heart had rejoiced as remembering past episodes of faith. Again, he speaks in the present thereby declaring heart rejoicing as a way of life. It is "joy unspeakable and full of glory." Not only is our confidence in the Lord

found in past deliverance it is assured for now and forever. So, it is with our rejoicing. We are in the present with our God and we may conclude that "true joy is seated in the heart" and will remain seated there. The outward result is that "my song shall praise Him."

David was pleased at the thought that the Lord is likewise the strength of all the redeemed. It has been well observed that the experience of one true believer is a pattern for all. We often look with wonder at the deeds of the faithful and marvel at their faith and are even more in awe of the majesty of our God. But it is to be realized in all who wait upon the Lord.

David may have seen the benefits that has fallen to them by virtue of the Lord anointing him as King over Israel. But we know that he realized that all hope was to be found in the grace of our God manifested in the anointed Messiah who was surely coming and has come. We have, through him, that saving strength. Spurgeon further wrote that "Saints are full of benedictions; they are a blessed people and a blessing people; but they give their best blessings, the fat of their sacrifices to their glorious Lord."

O that we might be found in these trying times, claiming the things that David did in ages past. May we claim Him as our strength and shield, and may our hearts be found trusting in Him with the realization that we are helped, and so may our hearts be rejoicing and our song be of Him and unto Him. *bhs*

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"Blessed are the peacemakers." Supremely true is this of our blessed Savior. He is the One who "made peace through the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20). He was appointed to be "an atoning sacrifice" (Romans 3:25), that is, the One who should pacify God's wrath, satisfy every demand of His broken law, glorify His justice and holiness. So, too, has He made peace between the alienated Jew and Gentile: see Eph. 2:14-15. In a coming day He will yet make peace on this sin-cursed and war-stricken earth. When He shall sit upon the throne of His father, David, then shall be fulfilled that word, "Of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end" (Isaiah 9:7). Well may He be called "The Prince of Peace." –Arthur Pink

## Teach Us the Art of Praise! – Tim Challies

While most people know that few have ever preached like Spurgeon, not nearly so many know that few have ever prayed like Spurgeon. Believe it or not, many who attended his church spoke less of his preaching and more of his praying! The little book *The Pastor in Prayer* captures some of his pastoral prayers, and today I wanted to share just a brief excerpt of one that seems especially fitting as we prepare to worship on this Lord's Day.

Our Father, blessed be Thy name forever and ever. Oh, that we praised Thee more! We must confess we never bless Thee as we ought, and our life is far too full of murmuring, or at the best too full of self-seeking, for even in prayer we may do this; and there is too little of lauding and adoring, and praising, and magnifying, and singing the high praises of Jehovah.

O God, wilt Thou teach us to begin the music of heaven! Grant us grace to have many rehearsals of the eternal Hallelujah. 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.' Grant us grace that we may not bring Thee blessings merely because Thou dost feed us, and clothe us, and because we receive so many mercies at Thy hand, but may we learn to praise Thee even when Thou dost put us under the rod, and when the heart is heavy, and when mercies seem but scant. Oh, that when the flocks are cut off from the stall, and there is no harvest, we may nevertheless rejoice in God.

O Lord, teach us this very morning the art of praise. Let our soul take fire, and like a censer full of frankincense, may our whole nature send forth a delicious perfume of praiseful gratitude unto the ever blessed One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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## CHURCHES OF CHRIST WORSHIP CHRIST

Churches of Christ are congregations of disciples of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ assembling to worship Him.

We are not a club providing entertainment. We assemble to worship before God, not to perform before people. We are concerned for the salvation of your soul, not the amusement of your flesh. We are not a law enforcement agency compelling obedience to Old Testament commandments regarding sabbaths, holy days, and what one may or may not eat or drink. "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4). We are "not under law but under grace", and live accordingly through Christ our Emancipator (Romans 6:1-14).

We are not a counseling center advising people how to deal with personal problems and life's difficulties. We are counseled by Christ the "Wonderful Counselor" (Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 3:18). Through His counsel we receive acceptance with God, salvation from His wrath against the wicked, sweet union with His people, and victory over personal problems and life's difficulties.

We invite you to our worship services. In them, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ alone is preached, taught, praised, obeyed, followed, and worshiped. – Daniel E. Parks