

The gospel is about much more than how we get saved and go to heaven. The gospel is about the work of Christ saturating every aspect of our lives. —Voddie Baucham

We are called to repent of the original sin that distorts us, the actual sin that distracts us, and the indwelling sin that manipulates us. This is a high and hard calling. —Rosaria Butterfield

The Baptist Catechism

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813 *(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)*

42. Q. But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall, at their death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day (Luke 16:23, 24; Acts 2:24; Jude 5, 7; 1 Pet. 3:19; Ps. 49:14).

43. Q. What shall be done to the wicked, at the day of judgment?

A. At the day of judgment the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels for ever (John 5:28, 29; Mt. 25:41, 46; 2 Thes. 1:8, 9).

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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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MARY MAGDALENE

Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. (Mark 16:9-11)

While observing the actions of others, many have often commented, “I don’t think I would have done it that way.” Men have questioned or acted in a different way with respect to most things that our Lord has done. When some momentous event is about to occur, they spend much time in assuring that it will be noted with much fanfare and ceremony. But when Jesus was to enter Jerusalem on His way to the cross there was no advance preparations or announcements made ahead of time. Instead, He approached the city on the back of an ass colt in the company of common folk and in the absence of anything that even resembled a red carpet. The religious leaders and Pharisees thought the scene and those participating as deplorable. These saw His majesty through it all and worshiped Him.

Observance of Resurrection Sunday are often attended with much fanfare and false piety. It is certain that religious leaders in high places will always make much of the observance. But the initial announcement of His resurrection was made in a quiet manner to a select few and it was certainly not in the way men would have done it. The most wonderful miracle ever had just occurred and it was first announced by angels to a small group of women. And His first appearance was to the subject of our thoughts for this message. She was Mary Magdalene. Might there not have been a calling together of a large crowd having

been told to expect some great announcement? Might He not have appeared in the midst of those who had cried for His crucifixion with a message of confrontation? He chose rather to first show Himself alive to a woman who had not only been liberated from the bondage of demons, but who had been gifted with such devotion that is worthy of imitation by all who read her story.

Who is Mary Magdalene? She was one who had experienced the tender care of the Lord. We read, *And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, (Luke 8:2).* No doubt, the Pharisees and others would have questioned the legitimacy of our Lord’s acceptance of her ministry to Him. But she had exhibited a true and undaunted devotion despite all she witnessed in opposition to Him. She had followed Him, along with others, through His Galilean ministry. We are not told specifically what they did, but it may be safe to assume that they not only learned at His feet, but also ministered to Him along the way. Thus, she followed Him to Jerusalem and continued to be a witness to all that transpired. She would have witnessed the final rejection, His trial, and His crucifixion. It is hard to imagine what her thoughts may have been, but her devotion to Him never wavered. In comparison, in those final hours His Apostles had fled. John seems to have stayed by, while Peter betrayed

Him. It appears that she was there, along with the others, and witnessed the final agony He suffered. They were there when His body was taken down from the tree and marked the place where they laid Him.

Her intent was to continue to display her devotion to Him in a somewhat traditional way. But she was to be among the first to bear the most important news this world has ever heard. When she and the others arrived at the tomb, they were astounded at what they saw and heard. They were simply told, "He is not here, but is risen." They dutifully reported to men what they had seen and heard and were met with unbelief. She had returned to the tomb with the men.

Mark tells us that He first appeared to her; John gives the details of the encounter. See John 20:11-18. There was no question the tomb was empty, but all were left looking for a human explanation. The word "risen" had not registered. But it was Mary Magdalene who had her devotion to Him rewarded. It was not His mother, and it was not any of the men who were in training to carry the Gospel to the world. It was this woman, so conscious of the grace and mercy she had known. It is to be noted that the men never saw the angels. So, after the men had departed in unbelief and despair she lingered. The angels appeared again and asked her why she was weeping. She was still concerned with being denied the privilege of final devotion to Him. Then He asked her why she was weeping. But then He called her by name, and all was forever changed. His days of public appearance were to be no more. He would reveal himself to "whomsoever He willed." She also recognized the voice and the

face that were unfamiliar to her a moment before.

He then uttered tender words to her that have left many debating their meaning. It seems that in saying "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father..." He was telling her that He would not resume the relationship He had had with them before; rather the relationship with her and all His people would be elevated to a Spiritual plane where His words, spoken to another woman, would be fulfilled. *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (John 4:23).* So, He directed her, "tell them that I ascend..."

She then further reported that she had seen Him alive and delivered the message. Even then, the eleven and others were doing as He had prophesied: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. (John 16:20).* It seems inexplicable that they should still be in unbelief. Perhaps He would have them to know that even believing is by the grace of God. They had even witnessed the raising of Lazarus.

Truly, Mary Magdalene was honored and yet humbled at what she had seen and heard. But then, her devotion to Him had never wavered. So, it is with all whose eyes are forever turned upon our risen Lord; and they, by faith, behold Him with a spiritual sight that beholds infinitely more than our natural eyes ever could. In Mary Magdalene we have a precious example of pure devotion and worship and our Lord reveals Himself the more to those who are so engaged with Him. *bhs*

The preaching of the gospel is God's chosen, ordained means of grace, by which He calls chosen, redeemed sinners to salvation in Christ by the irresistible power and grace of His Holy Spirit. The New Testament universally declares that the preaching of the gospel is vital to the salvation of God's elect. –Don Fortner (1950—2020)

Proverb 26:12

Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?

There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? – Yes, we see quite a few of them. They are like a cat beholding its long shadow at 5 PM and then imagining itself to be a lion. They love to impress people with their intellectual knowledge of their pet doctrines, and to argue against people who disagree with them, and to mock Christ's preachers who do not agree with them.

There is more hope for a fool than for him. – A simpleton may learn simple things, such as "the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). He may then become wise in God's eyes, though not in his own. It is much harder for a conceited know-it-all to learn anything.

– Daniel E. Parks

'When a man is speaking to God he is at his very acme. It is the highest activity of the human soul, and therefore it is at the same time the ultimate test of a man's true spiritual condition. There is nothing that tells the truth about us as Christian people so much as our prayer life. Everything we do in the Christian life is easier than prayer. It is not so difficult to give alms—the natural man knows something about that, and you can have a true spirit of philanthropy in people who are not Christian at all. Some seem to be born with a generous nature and spirit, and to such almsgiving is not essentially difficult. The same applies also to the question of self-discipline—refraining from certain things and taking up particular duties and tasks. God knows that it is very much easier to preach like this from a pulpit than it is to pray. Prayer is undoubtedly the ultimate test, because a man can speak to others with greater ease than he can speak to God. Ultimately, therefore, a man discovers the real condition of his spiritual life when he examines himself in private, when he is alone with God.'

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Sermon on the Mount* (London: IVP, 1960), 2:46.

Psalm 124:8

"The Lord who made heaven and earth." As if the Psalmist had said, As long as I see heaven and earth I will never distrust. I hope in that God which made all these things out of nothing; and therefore as long as I see those two great standing monuments of his power before me, heaven and earth, I will never be discouraged. So the apostle: 1Pe 4:19, "Commit the keeping of your souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator." O Christian I remember when you trust God you trust an almighty Creator, who is able to help, let your case be never so desperate. God could create when he had nothing to work upon, which made one wonder; and he could create when he had nothing to work with, which is another wonder. What is become of the tools wherewith he made the world? Where is the trowel wherewith he arched the heaven? and the spade wherewith he digged the sea? What had God to work upon, or work withal when he made the world? He made it out of nothing. Now you commit your souls to the same faithful Creator. - Thomas Manton.