

The business of the preacher is to state the truth of God, clearly, fully, simply; the rest the Spirit will take care of. We need not trouble ourselves about the survival of Christianity. God will take care of that. —Francis Grimké

God's grace didn't get us going then leave us to get by on our works. Grace didn't just justify us in the past, it sustains us in the present and will deliver us in the future. —Randy Alcorn

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)*

52. Q. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying (Ps. 14: 1), or not worshipping and glorifying the true God (Rom. 1:21), as God and our God (Ps. 81:10, 11), and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due unto him alone (Rom. 1:25, 26).

53. Q. What are we especially taught by these words before me, in the first commandment?

A. These words before me, in the first commandment teach us, that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of and is much displeased with the sin of having any other god (Ex. 8:5, to the end).

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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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SIN IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

The first Epistle of John presents many tests or evidences of regeneration. They begin in this chapter. There are six references in which the phrase “is born of God” appears and one in which the phrase “is born of Him” is the conclusion. This thought is attached to several things of which the presence of them in a life could only be because a New Birth has occurred. They include doing righteousness as a way of life, the absence of the domination of sin, loving one another after the example of Christ, absolute belief that Jesus is the Christ, overcoming the world in a life of faith, and a continued life of security from the wicked one. There are others in which the definition of the New Birth is stated such as the well-known reference to the love of the brethren: *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. (1 John 3:14).*

There are three tests in this chapter regarding false claims to regeneration and light as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The first of these is the claim to fellowship with Christ while walking in darkness. The conclusion is plain and simple – such are liars and “do not the truth.” The second and third ones are dealt with in this text. The conclusions of all of them is serious and absolute. The second one reveals deception in the absence of truth while the third one calls God a liar. Christ in us is tantamount to saying truth and light in us and both serve to expose

sin and lead us to seek forgiveness and mercy, not in mere superficial form but applied to our lives as a matter of experience.

To say that we have no sin is a great deception. This is the way of the world and the way of human rationalization. Many are deceived owing to a lack of knowledge of the word, and of course as previously noted in the absence of regeneration. Through continued practice they conclude that there is nothing wrong with what they are doing and thus continue along their merry way with no reference to true morality, let alone righteousness. Perhaps a more obvious reference would be to those who say they have progressed beyond sin. There is a form of legalism (law-works) that teaches that fleshly merit can gain acceptance with God. Such attain to an impression of personal spirituality that leads to a lack of consciousness of sin. In any event there is no dependence on Christ and the merits of His blood and righteousness.

We are all susceptible to losing an awareness of the very nature of sin and so to find ourselves in an untoward way that leads to misery and lost peace. But where the life of God exists in the soul of man such a way cannot long continue. Sin leaves a bitter taste with the true believer and condemnation sets in and he will sooner than later be seeking the place of restoration. A word of caution is in order at this point in that there is a danger of overmuch

introspection. Then the tendency is to attempt to do penance (voluntary self-punishment) rather than seek forgiveness.

How we rejoice at each reminder that "...there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared." Why do we need forgiveness? I once heard a man say that he asked the Lord to forgive him when he was saved and had never asked again – he just took Him at His word. The answer should appear obvious. Sin is a matter of rebellious experience against God. Assurance is a matter of experienced forgiveness to the hearts of true confessors. I have personally made the statement that "I am just a sinner saved by grace," and have heard many others do likewise. I fear that in so doing I have generalized the presence of sin in my life to the point of neglecting details. We may want to be comprehensive while not facing the reality of just how hateful sin is to our Holy God. Confession is necessary in that it brings us to consider He whom we have offended. We are not merely admitting that we are sinners by nature; nor are we to ever leave off seeking the face of the One we have offended. In this we are reminded that sensitivity to sin is an evidence of Christ in us and the life we have in Him.

It is in Christ that we have forgiveness and God is faithful in those things that acknowledge His Son and His sacrifice for sin. He is just in forgiving in that He has accepted the offering of

our Lord in our behalf. Thus, God is honored when forgiveness is accepted. The world sees asking forgiveness as a formality and glibly clear themselves. Owing to the heinousness and hatefulness of sin, believers require great faith to receive forgiveness. But added to forgiveness is cleansing which is both comforting and correcting. "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The chapter ends with the exposure of a great lie and its consequences. For one to say they have not sinned is to deny the fall and all its implications and betrays the lack of any sense of who God is and what sin is. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God!" Even more foolish are those who know of the existence of God and deny His right to condemn them. They are a law to themselves and imitate the lie of their father. The Word tells us that all have sinned and to say otherwise is to accuse God of lying. Yet, this is the rebellious way of the lost. Saying that His Word is not in us would be to say that Christ is not in us.

We are taken to the prayer of our Lord: *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 17:17)*. We are given precious evidence in our relationship to the Word. To we who know the Lord, the Word of God is most precious, and it is continuously moving us closer to Him. It is more than that which is read and memorized; it is personified as Christ in us. *bhs*

A Christian is a supernatural being who has had a supernatural experience, and that is something more than singing choruses; that is something more than making a decision; that is something more than becoming a member of a church; that is something more than enjoying Conventions. It is God at the centre of my life.

Let us discover the secret that all the resources of the Christian life are in Christ Himself, as He lives in me, by His Spirit. Frequently I say that the baptism of the Holy Spirit in its final analysis is not manifestations, it is not gifts. The baptism of the Holy Spirit in its final analysis is the revelation of Jesus. "God revealed His Son in me."

--Duncan Campbell, *The Price and Power of Revival*

TRUE CHRISTIANS NEVER FALL AWAY

Much error has been disseminated from a misunderstanding of Hebrews 6:4-6: “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Some say this text speaks of people who fall away after experiencing a counterfeit conversion.

Some say this text speaks of people who fall away after experiencing an imaginary conversion.

Some say this text speaks of people who fall away after experiencing a true conversion.

Brothers and sisters, the key to understanding this text is to take it at face value. It teaches that saved people who fall away from salvation cannot be resaved.

Now read verse 9: “But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.”

True Christians never fall away!

– Daniel E. Parks

Now look at Matthew 7:15–16: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.” A long time ago, a wise man told me, “Your best friend is the one who tells you the most truth about yourself.” You need to realize this. In America, we have become so thin-skinned that no one can rebuke us. No one can tell us that we are wrong. Ministers and leaders alike have bought into this lie. We do not want to offend. We want to be seeker friendly. What you need to realize is there is only one true seeker, and He is God. If you want to be friendly to someone in your church, you need to be friendly to God. You need to be more concerned for the glory of God than you are for the attitudes of men. You also need to grasp that the person who loves you the most will tell you the most truth about yourself and about God. One of the greatest distinguishing marks of a false prophet is that he will always tell you what you want to hear. He will never rain on your parade. He will get you clapping. He will get you jumping. He will make you dizzy. He will keep you entertained, and he will present a Christianity to you that will make your church look like a Jesus-based amusement park. He will keep you so entertained that you are never addressed with great issues such as these: Is God working in my life? Am I growing in holiness? Have I truly been born again?

--Paul Washer. *Narrow Gate, Narrow Way*

WHAT A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE IT IS TO BE CALLED TO REPRESENT CHRIST AT THIS PIVOTAL MOMENT OF HISTORY! WE ARE CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS. AND WE MUST PRAY THAT OUR LIGHT MIGHT SHINE MORE BRIGHTLY THAN EVER IN OUR DARKENING WORLD.

– ERWIN LUTZER AND DAVID JEREMIAH