

God's people are never so exalted as when they are brought low, never so enriched as when they are emptied, never so advanced as when they are set back by adversity, never so near the crown as when under the cross. —Theodore Cuyler

### 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)*

54. Q. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments (Ex. 20:4, 5, 6).

55. Q. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances, as God hath appointed in his word (Deut. 32:46; Mt. 23:20; Acts 2:42).

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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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### DRAWN TO CHRIST

*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die. (John 12:32-33)*

Where true faith is, the cross is never out of sight and such is the case throughout the world. In the twentieth verse of this passage certain Greeks had come seeking for Him. This is part of His response to that report. Those standing by had heard the response to His prayer, “Father, glorify thy name.” They heard a thunderous sound and did not know what to make of it. John has preserved for us the declaration from the Father that “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” It was then that He uttered the words of our text and declared to them both the manner of His impending death and the result that would flow from it. Helpless sinners would be drawn to Him as a result of Him being lifted up. It is in understanding the function of the death of Christ that we understand how hopeless and undeserving sinners can be justified. Where there is a sense of just condemnation, there is an unmistakable drawing to Christ. The cross is the effectual means of justifying sinners and all who will be saved and all who are saved experience an irresistible drawing to Him.

Charles Spurgeon, in reference to this passage, called Him “The Marvelous Magnet.” Drawing to Christ is an integral part of the conversion process. And the declaration here of “I will” is that of a determined Sovereign and a committed Savior. The thought of drawing here is not that of mere enticement. This is not the horrible depiction set forth by misguided men of Jesus trying to sell Himself to the will of men. It

is literally or figuratively “dragging” according to Strong; it is to impel according to Thayer. In any event it is an act of compulsion acting upon the will of His people. We see the same thought in, *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44)*. This is that sovereign exercise of the will of God wherein depraved men are so hostile as to lift Him up and God turns that same act of repulsion into the drawing of salvation. What He would do was not in question (“if I be lifted up”), rather John Gill suggests the words “when I am lifted up.” I am uncertain as to the origin of the following thought, but think it worthy of insertion here: His death was (1) determined by God (2) agreed to by Christ (3) predicted by the scriptures (4) signified by the types (5) foretold by Christ Himself.

We must never lose sight of the force of “I will” in the words of our Lord. It appears to us in two ways. First, we would refer again to John 6:44 and note that it is the Father that draws. In our text it is Christ who draws. Both the Father and the Son are agents in drawing us to Himself. From 6:44 we note that the drawing results in salvation. “I will raise Him up.” No human intervention or contribution is mentioned. From John 3 we can safely infer the mysterious, though unmentioned, agency of the Holy Spirit (See 1 Cor. 2:12). What Christ declared concerning this drawing was the exclusive appointed means of coming to Him. There

would be no failure. The universal interest in the cross is manifested here in that many are offended, but like the Greeks are attracted from every nation. Considering the absolute result, this does not mean all without exception; it is rather those from every nation.

The second thought is that through the revelation of Himself, men consciously find the reasons of being drawn. Many have sought to discredit the fact of an irresistible drawing in saying that it is necessary for men to be persuaded of themselves or that this omits experience. When Christ is revealed in spiritual awakening a willing people, with a new nature, experience the drawing power of the cross.

The experience of being drawn to Christ is precious indeed and desire for Him is evident. *Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee. (Song of Solomon 1:4).* God has ordained many to eternal life (Acts 13:48). He has also ordained that the desire of those drawn would be a knowing experience that is mysterious and unexplainable in human terms. It goes against the flow of human wisdom. It eclipses all other senses of necessity on the part of the comer to Christ. It is necessary because of the will of Him who draws, and it is compelling in the one who is drawn. It is a matter of affection: "O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me." And we hear Doddridge: "He drew me, and I followed on, charmed to confess the voice divine."

We would consider the things that draw us to Him as He is lifted up. Herein is greater love than men have known. He laid down His life for His friends. He did so with determination and endurance of horrible suffering. He quietly accepted what was determined to be done. We are drawn to His righteousness in that He received unto Himself the punishment of sinners without complaint. In receiving the wrath due us, He obtained for us peace with the Father. "...the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me." We look to the cross and see the conquest of sin that would have been the reason of eternal death and dying in me.

We consider these things and are not only sweetly drawn unto Him but are also filled with good reason to come. How could we not be drawn to Him who has, by being lifted up, obtained full redemption and the sense that we have been bought at such a price as He paid and that He has claimed us as His own loving possession.

John adds here that Jesus said this to signify by what death He would die. Our attention is directed to Him who merits all our love and is alive forevermore. We may never have erased from our thoughts the scenes of Calvary. Not only were we drawn to Him infallibly in salvation, but we also continue to be drawn to Him in undying love and thanksgiving for this "so great salvation."

O that we may ever be directed by the Holy Spirit to look to the cross for all our supply and behold the beauty of the One who hung there and to be so attracted to Him. *bhs*

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Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! (Psalm 34:8)

To you who say you have never tasted the glory of God, I say, you have tasted many of its appetizers.

Have you ever looked up at the sky? Have you ever been hugged? Have you ever sat in front of a warm fire? Have you ever walked in the woods, sat by a lake, lain in a summer hammock? Have you ever drunk your favorite drink on a hot day or eaten anything good?

Every desire is either a devout or a distorted enticement to the glory of heaven. You say you haven't tasted God's glory. I say, you have tasted the appetizers. Go on to the meal. Go on to God himself.

You have seen the shadows; look at the substance. You have walked in the warm rays of the day; turn and look at the sun itself — yes, through the protective and sharpening lens of the gospel. You have heard echoes of God's glory everywhere; tune your heart to the original music.

The best place to get your heart tuned is at the cross of Jesus Christ. "We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

If you want the most concentrated display of the glory of God, look at Jesus in the Gospels, and look especially at the cross. This will focus your eyes and tune your heart and waken your taste buds so that you will see and hear and taste the glory of the true God everywhere.

That is what you were made for. I plead with you: don't throw your life away on shadows. God made you to see and savor his glory. Pursue that with all your heart and above all else. You have tasted the appetizers. Now go on to the full banquet.

--John Piper (Solid Joy)

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From Brother Ron Rumburg

J. Gresham Machen speaking of the Holy Spirit in our age and the one great act remaining in the drama of redemption—the mighty catastrophic coming of our Lord in glory and then he injected:

"Meanwhile we have the Holy Spirit, and we have the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments that the Holy Spirit uses. Much mischief has been wrought in the church by false notions of 'the witness of the Spirit'; it has sometimes been supposed that the Holy Spirit makes us independent of the Bible. Just the opposite is the case. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He does not contradict in one generation what He has said in another. He does not contradict the Scriptures that He himself has given. On the contrary, what He really does is to make the words of Scripture glow with a heavenly light and burn in the hearts of men. Those Scriptures are placed in your hands. You may not say with the prophets of old: 'God has spoken directly and independently to me; I appeal to no external authority; when I speak it is "Thus saith the Lord."' But you can do something else. You can mount your pulpit stairs; open reverently the Bible on the desk; pray to the gracious Spirit to make plain the words that He has spoken; and so unfold to needy people the Word of God."

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The way the world is going to find out about the Lord Jesus is through us, and obedience is imperative. Profession is not worth anything. Church membership is not really worth anything. The issue is our love for Him evidenced by our obedience. How about your love for Him? Does it discipline you? Is He real to you? These are the things that are important. —J. Vernon McGee

"The wonder of the grace of God is that He can take an unholy man out of the unholy world, and make that man holy. And then put him back into the unholy world and keep him holy!" Leonard Ravenhill