

In April, 1521, Martin Luther appeared before his ecclesiastical accusers at the Diet of Worms. They had given him the ultimatum to repudiate his unwavering faith in the sufficiency and perspicuity of the Scriptures. Luther is said to have responded, "Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason---I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other---my conscience is captive to the Word of God--God help me!!! HERE I STAND."



### KEACH'S CATECHISM – Benjamin Keach 1640 - 1704

*(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)*

Q. 1. Who is the first and best of beings?

A. God is the first and best of beings.

(Isaiah 44:6; Psalm 8:1; 97:9)

Q. 2. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

(1 Cor. 10:31; Psalm 73:25-26)

Q. 3. How do we know there is a God?

A. The light of nature in man, and the works of God, plainly declare that there is a God; but His Word and Spirit only, do effectually reveal Him unto us for our salvation.

(Rom. 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 1:21-24; 1 Cor. 2:9-10)

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: [branthjs@msn.com](mailto:branthjs@msn.com)

Website: [www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com](http://www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com)

#### Services:

Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

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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### SILENCE COMMANDED

*Zechariah 2:13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.*

The world seems unimpressed with the claims of the scripture concerning the sovereignty of God and His rule over His creation. The message continues to be preached and the warnings are faithfully issued, yet, they shake their fists in the face of God and ask “who is the Lord that I should obey Him.” No doubt, where there is no “open vision” men quickly become skeptical and proceed on to insolence. The Old Testament Poet observed well: *Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.* It is not enough in men to ignore the command of God; they show contempt for it and for Him. So much is this so that when He sent His only begotten Son into the world, thereby condemning sin in the flesh, they crucified Him. But, with such commands as are sent forth from the pen of the prophet, we are assured that He will prevail and in such a way as they cannot imagine.

And so, the command echoes forth to be silent and it is directed to all flesh. These words were written at a time in which there was great upheaval among the kingdoms of the world. The Assyrians had given way to the Babylonians. The Babylonians had been overthrown by the Medes and Persians, and their tenure was uncertain. Men of faith knew that it was the hand of God that brought kingdoms into being and brought them down as it suited His purpose. Their assertions of power were soon hollow echoes, but the Lord remained in absolute control. Even

at this time of restoration from the captivity, the returning Israelites were repeatedly threatened and the heathen did all they could to drive them out. No doubt, they suffered much consternation and frustration. So it is that the words of the Prophet would bring encouragement, hope and consolation. Because, in that they know that the Lord could and would silence the heathen, they could be still as well. To men of faith, such words bring a true calmness of soul so that they may say with David: *Psalms 116:7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.*

The beginning of a new year brings both reflection and anticipation. Sadly, this often means that reflection is upon the apparent success of evil in the world and the anticipation is that it will only worsen. Indeed, the heathen rage and imagine a vain thing. Men continue to pursue a certain course to destruction. This applies from the lowest to those in the high places of government. They neither know nor do they consider both the consequences of their action and the reaction of God to it. He has reacted, He is reacting and He shall yet react. He did so in the interest of His people in the days of Zechariah. He is doing so in the interest of His people at all times and in all ages. In time He will fully manifest His Holiness, power and might to such a degree that, men will cry out for the rocks to cover them from the face of the One on the throne.

It is the LORD, Jehovah, the redeemer God

who rises up out of His Holy Habitation. Certainly it is from Heaven that He directs all. However, His will and purpose are being worked out on Earth. And so it is that He intervenes in the political affairs of men and He does so in the interest of the redemption of His people. He walks with them in such a way as to silence the threatening of the heathen as any attempt to approach or intimidate the souls of His own. They can and will do great harm to their bodies, but the testimonies of the Martyrs in all ages tell us that their hearts were fixed on God the heathen could go no further. And we are assured that the heathen will finally be put away so that their threatening gives way to "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." God is longsuffering but sure. *Romans 9:22-23 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory...*

That which cries the loudest to the heathen to be silent is the message from the cross. Paul's warning to the Athenians said as much. *Acts*

*17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.* The cross brings a message of condemnation to some and of salvation to others. God rose up out of His Holy Habitation on that day to pour His wrath out upon His Son. He smote the Shepherd. He accepted the offering of His Son as payment for the sins of His people. So they are directed to silence as they bow to the mercy of God and the means whereby He has brought it. They see their sins on Christ and believe Him for their salvation.

The cry for silence is just as sure to the heathen and unbeliever. He rose up out of His Holy Habitation to declare what He would do concerning sin. Certainly, if He did not spare His Son He will not spare them. Sooner or later all are brought to silence. It is in the knowledge of these things that we may approach each New Year with complete confidence that all is silent and settled as to the hope of the redeemed and that all else will be forever silenced before Him. *bhs*

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### Adoration

Oh for a tongue to express the utter delight I have found in you, my Lord and King!

Oh that my words could tell of Your marvelous glory! I lack the means, but my heart longs to express it! Loosen my tongue to only sing Your praise, O Most High and Holy God!

Jesus Christ ~ a never ending bounty for the soul.

If you know the Lord, it is impossible to loose your wonder of Him; His name alone, declares this. (Isa. 9:6)

Even if my praise to the Lord was uninterrupted and my entire life, one continuous song, it could never adequately express the mercy God has shown to me. His salvation is beyond my comprehension and His worth beyond what I can express.

May the signet of my King be so firmly pressed upon my heart that when the letters of my life are opened, the words written by the blood dipped pen are exquisitely found.

With the cup of salvation, I drink long from the wells of life. In such depths, my soul is found ~ oh for grace to abide! *By Holly D. Dye © Refocusing Our Eyes. <http://refocusingoureyes.com/>*

## A New Beginning

After this Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so he died, old and full of years (Job 42:16-17).

The book of Job ends on a note of contentment and peace. Job was probably about seventy when the book opens, so he is an old man. What a picture of peace, a contented man. God had greatly blessed him.

Before us stretches a new year, a new beginning. The old is past, put away forever. God invites us always to forget about all the distrust and fears, all the anxieties of the past, all the resentments we have been holding against others, all the grudges, all the criticisms--to put them away and begin again.

The question that hovers over us as we close this book (and I feel it deeply in my own heart) is, On what basis am I going to live in this new year? Will it be on the old basis of it-all-depends-on-me, do-it-yourself goodness before God, trying my best to be pleasing to God and meaning it with all my heart but never realizing the depths of evil with which I have to deal? Or will I accept the gift of God that is waiting for me every day, fresh from His hand, a gift of forgiveness, of righteousness already mine, of a relationship in which He is my dear Father and I am his cherished, beloved son, and in which I therefore have provided for me all I need, all day long, so that I may say no to evil and yes to truth and right?

Will it be on that basis? If it is, this will be a year in which my life will be characterized by peace, fragrance, and beauty. And so will yours. Or, if we insist on living it on the same old basis, we will find ourselves like these friends of Job, arousing the anger and the wrath of God. Though He is patient and merciful, our only escape will be to repent of our evil and rest upon the righteousness of our perfect substitute and return to God for the blessing that He is waiting to give. That is the choice before us, every one of us. How are we going to live in this new year? *Ray Stedman*

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### Run the Race Depending on Christ

We are to run our race "looking unto Jesus." We are to run, depending on Him for salvation, renouncing all trust in our own poor frail exertions, and counting our own performances no better than filthy rags, and resting wholly and entirely, simply and completely, upon that perfect righteousness which He worked out for us upon the cross. We need not run uncertain of the end, we need not fight in ignorance of what shall follow. We have only to behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and believe that He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows, and will soon present us spotless and unblameable in His Father's sight. ~ J.C. Ryle