

Expect the Pure Gospel! We have no right to expect anything but the pure Gospel of Christ, unmixed and unadulterated, the same Gospel that was taught by the Apostles, to do good to the souls of men. I believe that to maintain this pure truth in the Church—men should be ready to make any sacrifice, to hazard peace, to risk dissension, and run the chance of division. They should no more tolerate false doctrine—than they would tolerate sin. They should withstand any adding to or taking away from the simple message of the Gospel of Christ. ~ J.C. Ryle



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. 4. What is the Word of God?

A. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being given by divine inspiration, are the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

(2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Isaiah 8:20)

Q. 5. How do we know that the Bible is the Word of God?

A. The Bible evidences itself to be God's Word by the heavenliness of its doctrine, the unity of its parts, its power to convert sinners and to edify saints; but the Spirit of God only, bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in our hearts, is able fully to persuade us that the Bible is the Word of God.

(1 Cor. 2:6-7, 13; Ps. 119:18, 129; Acts 10:43, 26:22; Acts 18:28; Heb 4:12; Ps. 19:7-9; Rom. 15:4; John 16:13-4; 1 John 2:20-27; 2 Cor. 3:14-17)

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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

Volume 5, No. 2

January 8, 2012

OMNISCIENCE

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

The word simply means all-knowing and is rarely applied to any but God. Many of us have been told from childhood that God sees and knows everything we do. Perhaps there were those times when this was a deterrent to wrongdoing and disobedience, but in many more situations we chose to ignore this fact. But, the Bible is emphatic in declaring that nothing is hid from the Lord. But, more importantly He has an interest in all things and the implication is that He not only sees, but He also inspects. Thus, we come to realize that He is no mere observer of deeds. Underlying thoughts, intents and motives are as open to Him as the deed itself. So, we say to the child, or any other, God knows what you do and He knows why you do it.

Closely connected with this idea is the providence of God. He does not observe as one who sees but has no control. While men move with a sense of will (it is not free) their actions are seen to accomplish the purposes of God. So, whether it is in opposition to or cooperation with God, they serve His purpose. *Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.* These are troubling thoughts to many; but if there is no evil how do we know good? God does not cause men to sin; yet even their sin is turned to accomplish His will in redemption. *Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?* God is involved with what He sees and so He beholds that He may judge or that He may approve.

The thought here is not of God merely beholding evil deeds and good deeds. He is beholding evil men and good men and the deeds of each. David considered himself blessed in that he could say, *Psalms 139:4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.* How could this be in that not all the words of David were pure? True believers have no desire that anything be hid from God. Wicked people desire to be hidden from God. The child of God is glad that all is in the open because they trust the Lord to address all their needs. Like one who goes to the physician for a complete physical, we want the Lord to know all that is wrong with us. So it is that this passage is a warning to some and a consolation to others.

John wrote: *John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.* This condition betrays the fact that men know that their deeds are subject to inspection. It is not that men have no knowledge of God but rather that they "did not like to retain the knowledge of God..." *Romans 1:28.* Men justify their actions to men in many ways. One blames his childhood while another blames his environment. Many dismiss the divine disapproval of sin by simply saying "everybody does it" as if the judgments of God might be set aside by popular opinion. The heart of man is "desperately wicked: who

can know it?" The answer is that "the eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good". Men, in their audacity, challenge either the being of God, the vision of God or the right of God to pronounce judgment and execute it. It is as if they are saying to God "what I do is none of your business." But, in the end judgment against every evil work shall be carried out and no detail will be omitted since nothing is hid from Him. *Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

But, His eyes are in every place beholding the good. But, it may be asked, does not the scripture say that "there is none righteous, no not one?" So, how can it be that His eyes could behold any whose deeds and actions are good? There was one who came to Christ and addressed Him as "Good Master." The Lord asked why he was calling Him good since none were good but God. The question was a test to prove that the man did not know that Jesus was

God manifest in the flesh. But, it was true. He was good and the eyes of the Lord were beholding His every act. Infinite importance was given to detail and there would be an accounting of all since what He was doing would be offered in the behalf of others. Neither the Father nor men would ever find fault in Him. But, this begs the question of good in others.

When we realize that the sinfulness of men is universal how can any be said to be good? Does God indeed see the evil in His people? Obviously He knows all. But, He did behold evil ones and all their evil deeds as they appeared on His Son. Because of what He saw He poured out His wrath on Him. He accounted the good that was in Christ to their account. Two needs were met. The sins of those who come to Him by free grace through faith were accounted for and punished in Christ. The perfect life and righteousness of Christ were credited to their account and imparted to them at the New Birth. The eyes of the Lord behold the good which is Christ in the lives of His people. *bhs*

"I don't think we want to believe in a God who is a spectator in the drama of redemption. Who sends a Christ to die on a cross and stands there crossing his fingers hoping that someone will take advantage of it."

~RC Sproul

"Stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

The believer's conflict with the forces of darkness is rightly called spiritual warfare since Satan and his evil world system are hostile toward everything God does. By nature they are anti-God and anti-Christ.

Satan is the antithesis of every godly attribute. God is holy; Satan is evil. God is love; Satan is the embodiment of hatred. God redeems His children; Satan damns his. Jesus reveals grace and truth (John 1:17), but Satan "does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

God gives life, whereas Satan breeds death (Heb. 2:14). God produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

(Gal. 5:22-23). Satan produces immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and the like (vv. 19-21).

God uses trials to prove the genuineness of your faith and increase your joy and spiritual endurance (James 1:3). Satan uses temptation in an attempt to destroy your faith and silence your testimony. God grants freedom from the bondage of sin, while Satan wants to enslave you to sin for all eternity (2 Tim. 2:26).

Jesus is your advocate, pleading your cause before the Father (1 John 2:1). Satan is your accuser, blaming you incessantly for things God has already forgiven (Rev. 12:10).

As Satan opposes everything God does, he'll also oppose God's children. When he does, don't be overly concerned or think of it as odd or unfair. Expect trials, be prepared, and rejoice because they show you're a threat to Satan's system and an asset to Christ's kingdom. John MacArthur from the book *Drawing Near*

We may throw the dice!
(Charles Spurgeon)

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD. ."

If the fall of the dice is under the Lord's control—then whose is the arrangement of our whole life? If the simple casting of the dice is guided by Him—how much more the events of our entire life—especially when we are told by our blessed Savior, "The very hairs of your head are all numbered! Not a sparrow falls to the ground without your Father!" It would bring a holy calm over your mind, dear friend, if you were always to remember this. It would so relieve your mind from worry—that you would be the better able to walk in patience, calmness, and cheerfulness, as a Christian should.

When a man is anxious—he cannot pray with faith, or serve his Master. When you worry and fret about your lot and circumstances, you are meddling with Christ's business, and neglecting your own! You have been attempting "providing" work—and forgetting that it is yours to "obey". Be wise and attend to the obeying—and let Christ manage the providing.

Come and survey your Father's storehouse, and ask whether He will let you starve—while He has laid up so great an abundance in His garner! Look at His heart of mercy—and ask if that heart can ever prove unkind! Look at His inscrutable wisdom—and ask if that wisdom can ever be at fault. Above all, look to Jesus Christ your Intercessor, and ask yourself, while He pleads, can your Father deal ungraciously with you? If He remembers even sparrows, will He forget one of His poor children?

"Cast your burden upon the Lord—and He will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall." Psalms 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.