

When I speak of the doctrine of perseverance, I mean this. I say that the Bible teaches that true believers, real genuine Christians, shall persevere in their religion to the end of their lives. They shall never perish. They shall never be lost. They shall never be cast away. Once in Christ, they shall always be in Christ. Once made children of God by adoption and grace, they shall never cease to be His children, and become children of the devil. Once endued with the grace of the Spirit, that grace shall never be taken from them. Once pardoned and forgiven, they shall never be deprived of their pardon. Once joined to Christ by living faith, their union shall never be broken off. Once called by God into the narrow way that leads to life, they shall never be allowed to fall into hell. In a word, every man, woman, and child on earth who receives saving grace, shall sooner or later receive eternal glory. Every soul who is once justified and washed in Christ's blood, shall at length be found safe at Christ's right hand in the day of judgment. ~ 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. 15. What are God's works of providence?**

**A. God's works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures, and all their actions.**

(Neh. 9:6; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29-30)

**Q. 16. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man, in the estate wherein he was created?**

**A. When God had created man, He entered into a covenant of works with him, upon condition of perfect obedience, forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.**

(Gen. 2:16-17; Gal. 3:12; Rom. 5:12)

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**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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## TRUSTING MERCY

*But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. Psalms 13:5*

This psalm is a study in contrast. The beginning of the psalm witnesses a plaintive cry from David for a revelation of the Lord's face to Him and for Him. But, as is often the case in scripture, that which begins in sadness ends in rejoicing as the petitioner is brought to remember that which brings fundamental assurance to his soul. David remembers that his well-being is assured by the Lord's mercy.

Often the question is asked, “Have you trusted the Lord?” Perhaps the question should be, “are you trusting the Lord?” Then a following question might be, “for what are you trusting Him? And then, “what is the basis of such trust?” While David's trust in the Lord is clearly understood, it is specifically “Thy mercy” that is the object of his faith. As far as we are concerned our confidence in the Lord and His care for us cannot be separated from His mercy. We are taught, *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Psalms 103:8*. From such thought as this we understand mercy to be that from which all blessings in salvation abound. In other words, all that falls to us in salvation begins with mercy.

What if there was no mercy with the Lord? The only alternative is justice. And since we know that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” all would perish under the burden of the guilt of their sin and their sins. Yet, many persisted in our Lord's Day to set forth their own righteousness in hopes of acceptance with God. But, this fallacy was revealed and soundly condemned all through

scripture. Therefore, mercy is a must. Man's guilt is confirmed without question and the “soul that sinneth, it shall die.” There is no qualification to be found in men that would render them acceptable to God. There is no love of righteousness or quest for holiness. There is no fitness for cohabitation with God. Fallen man can neither speak nor understand the language of Heaven and none of the things of Heaven are found to His liking. They are as Demas who loved this present world. We could go on, but needless to say there is no remedy for man found in man or among men. Mercy must be found if any are to be saved.

The mercy of which David speaks is far more than a mere reprieve from Hell. It begins with the forgiveness of sins and ends with full acceptance and fellowship with God. Those redeemed by the blood of Christ enjoy an awareness of the same and receive the Grace of God unto life. They are born again. Certainly they cannot claim a part in bringing that to pass. They are brought to a living awareness of their sin and sinfulness before God and experience the grace of repentance. They are led to Christ wherein they see the reason of their salvation and know that it is He who has delivered them from sin and death unto Himself and life. They learn that it was He who took their place under the righteous wrath of God and was raised again for their justification. They are partakers of His nature and are receptive to all the goodness of God and the kindness bestowed on them in every way. They know safety in the face of

danger, peace in the face of conflict and joy in walking with the Lord.

Is it any wonder that David often returned to the thought of mercy? He was standing on solid ground because it was the mercy of his unchangeable Lord. It was well ordered and sure by the One who supplied it. The enemy might assault the fortress of his faith, but mercy made it sure. When doubts and fears would assail and conspire to take peace from his heart and sleep from his eyes, mercy would reappear and the songs would begin. If any of this had depended on David, or any of the Lord's people, there would be reason to quaver. But, *Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. Psalms 130:7.*

Mercy is not only the design of God it is the only way that He deals with men. Paul reminds us of the sovereignty of God and the fact that it reaches even to mercy. *Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Romans 9:18.* Two precious things we would learn here. First mercy is the prerogative of God. *So then it is not of him that*

*willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. Romans 9:16.* The second thing is that He will have mercy. That is a certainty. HE WILL HAVE MERCY. If salvation is not of mercy then some credit must go to man. But, mercy neither assumes nor seeks any contribution from its objects so that the Glory is to God alone through Christ. It is with such knowledge as this that where true faith is we may say with David "I have trusted in thy mercy."

So, he declares "my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation." This is not at merely being saved. While it is a wonderful thought to have escaped certain damnation, the rejoicing is in all that is brought to us in salvation. David was not uttering a sigh of relief, his rejoicing was emanating from his heart. Salvation is not merely an act of deliverance from hell; it is the eternal experience of a life of joy in the Lord. David's rejoicing was that of a regenerate heart joyfully aware that a Holy and righteous God had made him the beneficiary of His mercy. Oh that we were ever found rejoicing in the mercy of the Lord in Christ. *Bhs*

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LET US TELL AND HEAR THE STORY OF WHICH WE SING!

A favorite song in many churches is...

*Tell me the story of Jesus; / Write on my heart every word.*

*Tell me the story most precious, / Sweetest that ever was heard. ...*

The ministers of such churches often join them in singing...

*I love to tell the story / Of unseen things above,*

*Of Jesus and His glory, / Of Jesus and His love. ...*

Then a great host of those ministers afterward devote their messages to telling about themselves (as in 2 Corinthians 4:5a) – their "freewill", moral codes, family values, creeds and confessions, sabbaths, baptisms, churches and sects, good deeds, and so forth.

And the congregants of the churches who delight to hear such tales would not so much as walk across the street or turn on a radio or television to hear one preaching the Subject of their songs.

Pray that your pastor will never be such a hypocrite as to sing of loving to tell the story of Jesus and then tell something else!

And pray that you yourself will never be such a hypocrite as to sing of loving to hear the story of Jesus while sitting under the ministry of someone who tells it not.

I pray both prayers! – Daniel E. Parks

The mercy of God  
(Charles Spurgeon)

"I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever!" Psalm 52:8

Meditate a little on the mercy of God.

It is tender mercy. With gentle, loving touch, He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds. He is as gracious in the manner of His mercy--as in the matter of it.

It is great mercy. There is nothing little in God; His mercy is like Himself--infinite. You cannot measure it. His mercy is so great--that it forgives great sins of great sinners, after great lengths of time; and then gives great favors and great privileges, and raises us up to great enjoyments in the great Heaven of the great God!

It is undeserved mercy, as indeed all true mercy must be, for deserved mercy is only a misnomer for justice. There was no right on the sinner's part, to the saving mercy of the Most High God. Had the rebel been doomed at once to eternal fire--he would have justly merited the doom; and if delivered from wrath, sovereign love alone has found a cause, for there was none in the sinner himself.

It is rich mercy. Some things are large--but have little efficacy in them--but this mercy is:

a cordial to your drooping spirits;  
a golden ointment to your bleeding wounds;  
a heavenly bandage to your broken bones;  
a royal chariot for your weary feet;  
a bosom of love for your trembling heart!

It is manifold mercy. As Bunyan says, "All the flowers in God's garden are double." There is no single mercy. You may think you have but one mercy--but you shall find it to be a whole cluster of mercies.

It is abounding mercy. Millions have received it--yet far from its being exhausted, it is as fresh, as full, and as free as ever!

It is unfailing mercy. It will never leave you. If saved by sovereign mercy--mercy will be . . .

with you in temptation--to keep you from yielding;  
with you in trouble--to prevent you from sinking;  
with you in living--to be the light and life of your countenance; and  
with you in dying--to be the joy of your soul when earthly comfort is ebbing fast!

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever!" Psalm 89:1