

1Sa 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

A worship service is not the place to showcase human talent; it's the place for God to showcase his Divine treasure. Isaiah did not leave the temple in Isaiah 6 thinking, "What great music, what a great building, what a great preacher." He left thinking, "What a great God." - Tullian Tchividjian



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. 27. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation.

(Acts 3:22; Heb. 5:6; Ps. 2:6)

Q. 28. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by this Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

(John 1:18; 14:26; 15:15)

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: branthjsi@msn.com

Website: 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

Volume 5, No. 12

March 18, 2012

THE ABSENCE OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE

For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. Jeremiah 4:22

In John 17 our Lord defined eternal life. *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3.* To many, salvation consists of such things that men may produce, such as profession, outward obedience, imitation and even religion. All of these things can be accomplished with only a cursory knowledge about God and the things of the word of God. The knowledge our Lord declared in John 17, is that referenced in many places in Scripture. It is a knowledge characterized by acquaintance and love. This is the knowledge that one has when he does indeed walk with God. It is sad to note that salvation is assumed by many where they have not known God.

For years, Jeremiah lamented the open sins of his people. He is called the weeping prophet. He was witness to their idolatrous and pleasure seeking ways and he wept at their open affront to the Lord and he wept as he contemplated the outcome of judgment and destruction that would surely come. They had the witness of centuries of the mighty works of the Lord and numberless blessings and deliverances besides. They were well aware and were often reminded of the graciousness of the Lord to the nation of Israel. They knew of the great display of God's power in bringing them from bondage in Egypt. He had faithfully led them through the wilderness and brought them to the promised inheritance. They had known of the deliverances from more powerful enemies and the sure

result when they were disobedient and looked to idols. Jeremiah was seeing them at their worst. How could they be given to such evil? The answer is given in simple terms: "they have not known me."

We can safely assume that this is the reason of all evil. Where true knowledge of the Lord is, evil is abhorred and righteousness exalts His people. Knowing their history and the result of past evils did not dissuade these people from pursuing their idolatrous lusts. The mere knowledge of history and facts can never save. Human ability and human wisdom are always lacking. The Lord's people were called foolish and their behavior called sottish (silly). They were known to bring idols into the Temple itself and think themselves to be worshiping God. Two effects are given as a result of having no understanding (which they would have had if they had known God). There are two ways that human depravity manifests itself. Such wisdom as they had was directed to evil and they lacked the knowledge to do good things. Jeremiah often alluded to this condition. *Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. Jeremiah 13:23.* Many things in the makeup of men indicate a certain wisdom that is a result of him being created in the image of God. With the fall, these things were turned to devising evil and such things as brought devilish pleasure. When we couple this thought with the inability to understand how to

do good, the condition seems hopeless. Whenever men think themselves able to do or to create that which is acceptable to God the end result is always the same. Only the righteousness of Christ is acceptable with God. In summarizing the evidences of human depravity the apostle Paul simply declared "the way of peace they have not known."

Our Lord's warning to the disciples was strong. *And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. John 16:3.* He was referring to the fact that they would be thrown out of the synagogues for following Him. Religious intolerance is not new nor has it gone away. The intolerance in our day appears in a very deceptive way. Modern religion is intolerant of any declaration of the sovereignty of God and the absolutes of his word. They are determined to claim acceptability by God of any system they propose. Disagreement leads, in effect, to being kicked out of the mainstream. They stop their ears to the true gospel. The sovereignty of God is hated. The declaration of the necessity of a substitute to be sacrificed for their sins infuriates. Our Lord said of Israel that they had stoned the prophets and had killed them which were sent unto them. Paul's summary thought in 1 Corinthians 2, brings the same conclusion as

Jeremiah. *Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1 Corinthians 2:8.* Paul was speaking of the wisdom of God.

Perhaps, instead of asking someone if they are saved, we should ask them if they know the Lord, and if they walk with Him and if they are conscious of eternal life in Him. Many have been told things about God and things for them to do to be saved. Having met these requirements, they are certified as Christians. But the very word Christian means "Christ-like." We only become "Christ-like" in knowing Him and walking with Him. He said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." If the Scripture places such emphasis upon the knowing of God should not we do the same? Religion apart from the true knowledge of God is only evil. It behooves us then to declare Him as the God who will be known by those He saves. Jesus Christ knew the sins of His people when He went to the cross and suffered in their stead under the just wrath of God. He will be intimately known by those for whom he paid such a great price. Paul valued the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord above all other things. In the absence of that knowledge there is only evil. *bhs*

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." I'm not afraid of the devil. The devil can handle me – he's got judo I never heard of. But he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined; he can't handle the One to whom I'm united; he can't handle the One whose nature dwells in my nature. - A.W. Tozer

Prove Your Sincerity From the Bible

The plain truth is, that "sincerity and earnestness" are becoming the idol of many Christians in these latter days. People seem to think it matters little what opinions a man holds in religion, so long as he is "earnest and sincere", and you are thought uncharitable if you doubt his soundness in the faith! Against this idolatry of mere "earnestness" I enter my solemn protest. I charge every reader to remember that God's written Word is the only rule of faith, and to believe nothing to be true and soul-saving in religion which cannot be proved by plain texts of Scripture. I entreat him to read the Bible and make it his only test of truth and error, right and wrong. ~ J.C. Ryle

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times" (Eph. 6:18).

As important as prayer is to your Christian life, you might expect Paul to list it as another piece of spiritual armor, but he doesn't. Instead, he makes it all-pervasive by instructing us to pray at all times. That's our spiritual lifeline--the air our spirits breathe. The effectiveness of each piece of armor is directly related to the quality of our prayers.

We see the importance of prayer throughout the New Testament. Jesus instructed His disciples to be on the alert at all times, praying so that they would have strength to face the trials and temptations that lie ahead (Luke 21:36). The apostles devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 6:4), as did godly people like Cornelius (Acts 10:2). Every Christian is to be continually devoted to prayer (Rom. 12:12).

In Philippians 4:6 Paul says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." He told the Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17) and instructed men everywhere to "pray, lifting up holy hands" (1 Tim. 2:8).

Jesus and Paul not only exhorted believers to pray, but also modeled diligent prayer in their own lives. Jesus often went for extended periods of time alone to pray. Paul wrote often of his own fervent prayers on behalf of others (cf. Col. 1:9; Philem. 4).

As a child, you may have been taught that prayer is reserved for mealtimes, bedtime, or church services. That's a common misconception many children carry into their adult years. But believers are to be in constant communication with God, which is simply the overflow of seeing all of life from His perspective. Just as you would discuss your everyday experiences and feelings with a close friend, so you're to discuss them with God.

God loves you and wants to share your every joy, sorrow, victory, and defeat. Be conscious of His presence today and take advantage of the sweet communion He offers. John MacArthur.

"Even as the moon influences the tides of the sea, even so does prayer influence the tides of godliness." Spurgeon



To be Born Again

"To become born-again you must..... hold on a second, let me back up and try again..... to become born-again GOD must choose to create you a new heart, quicken you from the dead. Thereby, enabling you to repent of your sin and use the faith that He gifted you when He regenerated you. That is grace.
Zachary Kueker

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.