

The Tender Mercy of Christ

“Never, never let us curtail the freeness of the glorious Gospel, or clip its fair proportions. Never let us make the gate more straight and the way more narrow than pride and the love of sin have made it already. The Lord Jesus is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

“He does not regard the quantity of faith, but the quality. He does not measure its degree, but its truth. He will not break any bruised reed, nor quench any smoking flax. He will never let it be said that any perished at the foot of the cross. ‘Him that cometh unto Me’, He says, ‘I will in no wise cast out’ (John 6:37).”

~ 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. 38. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

(1 John 3:1; John 1:12; Rom. 8:16-17)

Q. 39. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is a work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

(2 Thess. 2:13; Eph. 4:23-24; Rom. 6:11)

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: branthsi@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

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MASTER AND LORD

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. John 13:13

These words were uttered by our Lord, to His disciples, shortly before the crucifixion. They had ended a meal and He proceeded to perform a most menial task normally relegated to a domestic servant. He began to wash their feet. Peter objected, but He insisted. He was teaching them a valuable lesson about greatness from His perspective. In several places He had taught to the effect that “he who will be great among you, let him serve.” In this instance He acted on that teaching and took the place of a servant. He had declared of Himself that He came not to be ministered to but to minister. He would endure far greater humiliation than this. The strong message was that if we would imitate Christ we too must take the place of a servant both before God and men.

The good deeds of our Lord are well known by many. In all that He did He emphasized the “Golden Rule” and the importance of “condescension to men of low estate.” It is well that many have observed these things in Scripture. Often, however, men mistake the example of Christ as a means to salvation. That is, just do these good works and all will be well. Good works do not atone for sin. Neither is the means of salvation found within men. Salvation is of the Lord. It is Christ that died and is risen again. Nothing short of the Blood of Christ can avail to save. He was here training saved people as to His character and self-abnegation so that they might recognize the nature of grace and graciousness. But, there is something essential here men often miss.

Before proceeding with this teaching about humiliation and serving He reminded them of who He was and what they had previously acknowledged. “Ye call me Master and Lord.” The true effect of the teachings of Christ hinges on their knowledge of this great truth – He is Master and He is Lord. This was profound. He who had just washed their feet immediately asserted His absolute wisdom and His sovereignty. His verification was emphatic – “for so I am.” We would note three things here. He was their master teacher exclusively. He was their Lord. And, He is the Great “I am.”

The world treats the teaching of Christ as mere philosophy. But, they are much more than an opinion or the musings of a mere man. Consider: *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63.* The Apostle Paul declared that the teachings of Christ must be spiritually discerned. Men often take the philosophies of other men and add to them or reform them or in some manner alter them to suit their own ideas. In this way new philosophies are often born. It is not surprising that unregenerate men would arbitrate the very Words of our Lord. We often hear something like, “He really didn’t mean it that way.” We are well advised to do as the hymn writer advocated and “take Him at His word.” The words of Christ are never received as mere guidelines or suggestions by those who truly know Him. With Peter they declare: *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall*

we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. John 6:68. He is “the” Teacher, Doctor, and Master in possession of perfect knowledge and wisdom. That is why the Father thundered out of Heaven, “this is my Beloved Son, hear ye Him.”

Furthermore, He is Lord. Peter revealed at Pentecost that God had made Him, the crucified One, both Lord and Christ. See Acts 2:36. It is amazing that many would teach that acknowledging the Lordship of Christ is not essential to salvation in spite of this divine declaration. It had always been the aim of the devil to usurp the authority of Christ. He (Satan) is no doubt greatly offended at the millions who have submitted to Him. It is of grace and mercy and by the power of the Holy Spirit that this happens because men cling to their own will and pride and declare either openly or by implication that they “will not have this man to reign over them.” The ultimate confession of all will be that Jesus Christ is Lord. It will be the confession of those in Heaven, on the earth and under the earth. Submitting to Christ as Lord is not an act of generosity in men, it is the Spirit led response to a divine mandate. True believers delight to submit to Him fully. Jesus is Lord.

In many places, especially in the Gospel of John, the phrase “I am” appears. The significance of this might have been lost on the disciples at that time, but not for long. In commissioning Moses the Lord declared, *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. Exodus 3:14.* When Christ Jesus used these words He was claiming that same identity. He declared just as surely to those disciples that He was “I AM.” He was the eternally existent one, the Creator, the Holy One, the redeemer God. The time would come when they would go with that authority even as Moses did. They would go as the servants of Him who declared that He was “I AM.” How could it be otherwise? Paul would later identify Him in saying that “God was manifest in the flesh.”

What a contrast was shown to them here. When we are taught humility, we do not have far to go. His descent was from the “Glory that He possessed before the world was.” They would soon know just far He would go to meet their needs. Truly, greatness is measured in servitude. *bhs*

Souls of the Gospel

This is the Christian of the right stamp, and all about him are better because of him... For my part, I had rather have the company of a heavenly-minded Christian than that of the most learned disputants or princely commanders.

A soul that does not set its affections on things above disobeys the commands, and loses the most gracious and delightful discoveries of the Word of God...

As heaven is the perfection of all our mercies, so the promises of it in the gospel are the very souls of the Gospel... It has pleased our Father to open his counsel and let us know the very intent of his heart, that our joy might be full and that we might live as the heirs of such a kingdom... And shall we now overlook all? Shall we live in earthly cares and sorrows, and rejoice no more in these discoveries, than if the Lord has never revealed them? Richard Baxter *“The Saints Everlasting Rest”*

For my part I cannot see how true humbleness of mind can be attained without a knowledge of [the doctrine of election]; and though I will not say, that every one who denies election is a bad man, yet I will say, it is a very bad sign: such a one, whoever he be, I think cannot truly know himself; for, if we deny election, we must, partly at least, glory in ourselves...--Whitfield

Complete and Effective Decision About Sin

. . . our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin —Romans 6:6

Co-Crucifixion. Have you made the following decision about sin—that it must be completely killed in you? It takes a long time to come to the point of making this complete and effective decision about sin. It is, however, the greatest moment in your life once you decide that sin must die in you—not simply be restrained, suppressed, or counteracted, but crucified—just as Jesus Christ died for the sin of the world. No one can bring anyone else to this decision. We may be mentally and spiritually convinced, but what we need to do is actually make the decision that Paul urged us to do in this passage.

Pull yourself up, take some time alone with God, and make this important decision, saying, “Lord, identify me with Your death until I know that sin is dead in me.” Make the moral decision that sin in you must be put to death.

This was not some divine future expectation on the part of Paul, but was a very radical and definite experience in his life. Are you prepared to let the Spirit of God search you until you know what the level and nature of sin is in your life— to see the very things that struggle against God’s Spirit in you? If so, will you then agree with God’s verdict on the nature of sin— that it should be identified with the death of Jesus? You cannot “reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin” ([Romans 6:11](#)) unless you have radically dealt with the issue of your will before God.

Have you entered into the glorious privilege of being crucified with Christ, until all that remains in your flesh and blood is His life? “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me . . .” ([Galatians 2:20](#)). Spurgeon

"Every man who loves himself and seeks salvation by his own works, will loathe sovereign grace, and seek to load it with contempt. On the other hand, those who have been effectually humbled by the Holy Spirit and brought to realize that they are... utterly dependent upon the discriminating mercy of God will have no hankering after, nor patience with a system which sets the crown of honour upon the creature." -A.W. Pink

"Repentance is a grace, and must have its daily operation, as well as other graces. A true penitent must go on from faith to faith, from strength to strength; he must never stand still or turn back. True repentance is a continued spring, where ...the waters of godly sorrow are always flowing. 'My sin is ever before me'." -Thomas Brooks

"Go to the cross of Christ, all you that want to be delivered from the power of selfishness. Go and see what a price was paid there to provide a ransom for your soul. Go and see what an astounding sacrifice was there made, that a door to eternal life might be provided for poor sinners like you. Go and see how the Son of God gave Himself for you, and learn to think it a small thing to give yourself to Him." -J. C. RYLE