

Nowhere in the Bible will you find the words "Let Jesus save you"...Nowhere in the Bible will find the words "Accept Jesus as your Savior"...Nowhere in the Bible will find the words "Ask Jesus into your heart"...The words are not there. They are man-made...What you will find is the word REPENT and turn from your sin...Don't pray to accept Jesus...Pray that He will accept you... Voddie Baucham

Dear World-System,

You can keep your cheap and pleasure-seeking entertainment, which in the end, only corrupts and destroys the one panting for it. For I have found riches beyond your comprehension and purity profound ~ hence you have nothing to offer me out of your sin-stenched treasury. Holly Dye



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. 46. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

(Rom. 2:14-15; 5:13-14)

Q. 47. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.

(Deut. 10:4; Matt. 19:17)

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

Volume 5, No. 22

May 27, 2012

FEATURES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Romans 14:17

At the mention of the Kingdom of God the minds of many go to something that is somewhere in the future. Certainly all true believers look with excitement to the Blessed Hope and glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our minds entertain great thoughts of what is to come even though we realize that it will be far greater than anything we are capable of thinking. There is, however, a present reality and manifestation of the Kingdom of God. Our Lord said: *And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. Luke 17:20-21.* The word “within” here indicates that the Kingdom was among them.

“The Kingdom of God is the sphere where God is acknowledged as Supreme Ruler.” (Believer’s Bible Comm.) While we know that God is ruler over all His creation and is in control of all, it is in the hearts of true believers that He is acknowledged. The Psalmist reported twice that “the fool hath said in his heart that there is no God.” The Kingdom of God is not visible to any but the regenerated and redeemed people of God. Christ told Nicodemus that the Kingdom could neither be seen nor entered without being born again. Thus, we understand that in being born again that a person both sees and finds himself in that realm where God is known, bowed to, and delighted in in every way. This

was the objective of God in Christ that we should forever dwell with Him. We enter His Kingdom in this life and look for a full and glorious revelation of it in time to come.

Harmony is the order of the day in the Kingdom of God. Paul was addressing certain divisive issues in this chapter of Romans. Where the features of the Kingdom of God are manifested such divisions give way to the greater joy of looking to Christ in all we do. Three things are here given as a summary of the Kingdom as it is experienced in the Lord’s people. It is evident that they stand or fall together. Joy cannot exist in the absence of righteous and peace. The world, the flesh and the devil conspire to take us from this state and into the ways of the world. As a result we often find ourselves being drawn to a way of self-determination. There is no joy in that realm.

The righteousness that the Apostle speaks of here is derived from the righteousness of Christ that is given us in salvation. Christ took to Himself the sins of His people and died for them. But, He also imputed His righteousness to their account so that no charge remains against them. Furthermore, in regeneration He imparts that righteousness to us as a way of life. So it is then that the citizens of the Kingdom of God endeavor to walk in display of this righteousness. The term used here is that of rectitude or moral uprightness. It is seen in the character of those who possess it and it manifests itself toward one’s neighbor. Righteousness is seen as a way of life in the

Kingdom both now and forever.

There is nothing more comforting and encouraging to true believers than to know they have peace with God. *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19.* It is Christ who has made peace through the blood of His cross. Thus we are directed to look to the Lamb of God and to believe that He has atoned for our sins and the conflict with God is ended. Such knowledge brings a personal sense of calmness of soul. It was Christ who said to the elements "Peace, be still." He speaks to our troubled hearts in the same way. The effect of this upon us does not go unnoticed by those about us. It would be the height of inconsistency to know that we are at peace with God and to be in conflict with others. The peace that Paul mentions here is seen by those without. *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16:7.* Paul speaks of fallen and depraved man in this way: *And the way of peace have they not known: Rom. 3:17.*

The third feature here is joy. We quickly recognize it as one of the parts of the fruit of the Spirit. (See Gal. 5:22-23). Herein we learn something of the mystery of the operations of the Holy Spirit in that one cannot will himself to be happy. There are conditions that contribute to joy, but this joy is said to be "in the Holy Spirit." To be in possession of the righteousness of Christ, and to know peace with God, are things to be celebrated. But, joy is experienced in the very depths of our being. It responds to Christ and the things He has accomplished. It is the delight in all that is true about Him. It is the consciousness of His presence with us. It is that which expresses itself in all ways as a result of knowing our triune God and the glorious redemption He accomplished. True joy labors for expression and thus reaches far beyond such mundane things as "meat and drink."

All three of these things exist in believers because of the work of Christ and the quickening power of the Holy Spirit. The world (and our neighbor) may see the effect, but they are only known by those in the Kingdom of God. *bhs*

The Look of Illumination.

"They looked unto Him, and were enlightened: and their faces were not ashamed" (Psalm 34:5). Faith's looking unto Christ is the grand means of blessing appointed by God: pardon and peace, light and liberty, are obtained thereby. Of old, Job said, "Lo, all these things works God oftentimes with man — to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living" (Job 33:29-30). He does so by the power of His Spirit working in us, faith upon Christ. God announced concerning His beloved Son, "I will also give you for a light to the Gentiles" (Isa 49:6). And in due time, the Sun of righteousness arose "with healing in his wings" (Mal 4:2), putting an end to the night of darkness for many a soul. By His Gospel, He declares, "I am come a light into the world, that whoever believes on me should not abide in darkness" (John 12:46). Then look unto Him — and you too shall be divinely illumined: your faith shall not be confounded, nor your face covered with confusion. *A. W. Pink*

GODLY SINCERITY

1. Never pay a compliment at the expense of conscience or of truth.
2. Fear God.
3. Never say what you do not really feel.
4. Confess those sins of heart which no eye sees but God's.
5. Assume nothing that does not belong to you, and comes not from your heart.
6. Beware of adopting another person's experience as your own.
7. Let the fear of God dwell richly in you.
8. Let your heart be right with Him.
9. Do all with your eye upon eternity.
10. Think little of time, except to improve every moment.
11. Have an abiding sense of the Lord's presence with you, and do not be satisfied without it.
12. Never suffer your politeness to carry you beyond truth.
13. Fear God.
14. Let truth dwell in your heart, and nothing but truth flow from your lips.
15. Pray, and look for the answer.
16. Aim always to have the consciousness of God's ear harkening.
17. Be not satisfied with an empty, lifeless form, nor leave the throne of grace without a recognition.
18. Honour the Spirit, and the Spirit will honour you.
19. Plead for His indwelling power.
20. Grieve Him not, lest your heart grow cold, and your soul become barren.
21. Strive to live on high, and you will live holily ; and to live holily is to live happily."

MARY WINSLOW



His once-idolized righteousness

Before conversion, man seeks to cover himself with his own fig-leaves, and to make himself acceptable with God by his own duties. He trusts in himself, sets up his own righteousness—and does not to submit to the righteousness of God. But conversion changes his mind; now he counts his own righteousness as filthy rags. He casts it off, as a man would the verminous tatters of a nasty beggar! Now he is brought to poverty of spirit, complains of and condemns himself; and all his inventory is, 'I am poor, and miserable, and wretched, and blind, and naked!' He sees a world of iniquity in his holy things, and calls his once-idolized righteousness but filth and loss; and would not for a thousand worlds be found in it! Now he begins to set a high price upon Christ's righteousness. He sets himself down for a lost undone man without Him. Before, the gospel of Christ was a stale and tasteless thing; but now—how sweet is Christ! In a word, the voice of the convert is, 'None but Christ!' *Joseph Alleine*

It is an inestimable blessing to be taught the value of God's word, so as to prize it, and to give much time to reading and meditating upon it. Let no one deceive you with vain words, and cause you to think, because you understand the plan of salvation, that you are sure of eternal glory. To receive the gospel in word is one thing, but to receive it with power, and the Holy Spirit, and much assurance is another.

William Tiptaft