

Two signs

Let DESERVED! be written on the door of Hell; but on the door of Heaven, THE FREE GIFT!

*"For the wages of sin is death--but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!"
Romans 6:23 ~~ (Richard Baxter, "The Saints' Everlasting Rest")*



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. 48. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is, to love the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

(Matt. 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-33)

Q. 49. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

(Exodus 20:2)

Q. 50. What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us, that because God is the Lord, and our God

and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all His commandments.

(Deut 11:1)

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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

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WALK ABOUT ZION

Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. Psalms 48:12-13

In the first verse of this Psalm, the writer makes sure that we understand that it is not the city that is to be praised. It is the Lord who is “greatly to be praised.” It is His city that is spoken of with great and glorious terms, but it is the perfection of His work that is called to our attention. This was the city that symbolized the dwelling place of God with His people. It was there that His sovereign rule is understood. It is here that Christ is pictured to us: *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Psalms 2:6-7.* This is in spite of the raging of the heathen and those who would exalt themselves above God and would seek to defeat His purpose. Nevertheless, we are told that *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand. Proverbs 19:21.*

There over 150 references to Zion, the city of our God in the Old Testament. There are none in the New Testament. This points us to an understanding of the design of God that He should dwell with His people. We see that brought to light in the New Testament in that Christ Jesus is called Immanuel. That is, “God with Us.” Volumes could be written with regard to the Old Testament references to the sacred city and its importance to the Gospel expectations of the Lord’s people. John declares that the “world itself could not hold the books that should be written” concerning Christ and

His works. When we think of surpassing beauty and perfection we may marvel at the Old Testament city of Jerusalem and Mount Zion especially, but it is Christ and His work that inevitably arrests our attention.

The challenge set forth in this passage is to walk about Zion for the purpose of examination. It is that we should see if there are any flaws or imperfections to be found. Having described her beauty earlier in the Psalm the focus now goes to her strength and fortifications. We are told to count the towers from which observation was to be made concerning any that would presume to attack. The bulwarks (entrenchments or fortifications) were to be inspected. Her palaces were to be seen where true royalty dwelt in safety and comfort. We are reminded that He has made us “Kings and Priests.” The walks around Jericho occasioned the fall of that city. To walk around the city of God would be to confirm that it could never fall.

With that thought we are reminded of the fact that Jerusalem and the Temple did fall. This only reveals to us that something more than stones and mortar was in view. While we hesitate to set forth proofs from types and shadows, this certainly suggests to us that which Christ Jesus our Lord has made absolutely perfect – the salvation of His people. *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Psalms 91:1-*

2. It is in Christ that we are secured from that which would destroy our very souls. With regard to the judgments of God, we are made new creatures and given the righteousness of Christ as a matter of both record and practice. That is, His righteousness is credited to the account of His people and His nature is placed within them. The accuser comes to attack and finds no weakness. If he would seek to lead astray, he finds faith in Christ that is impervious to his "fiery darts." If he would charge with sin, he encounters the blood of Christ and finds no grounds on which he might condemn. *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Romans 8:34.* Men have encircled Christ for centuries, and from the beginning could find no defect in His righteousness, nothing lacking in His wisdom or any lack in His provision. He offered the perfect sacrifice and is now set down at the Right Hand of Power on High there to continually secure the salvation of His people – those who by faith come to Him. Furthermore, we are told that He has "raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places" in

Him. Such are the palaces in which we are made to dwell secure.

We are to continually survey this "great salvation." It is obviously done to the consternation of the enemy but the delight of true believers. But, there is a further purpose to this mandate. That is, that we should tell it to the generation following. We are to report often on what we have seen as we "walk about Zion." We are to describe the manner of God's dwelling with His people. We are to report on the infallibility of those things wherewith He has established His presence forever with His people. The Gospel we preach is one of perfection. It is of perfect redemption, perfect righteousness, perfect security and all with perfect glory to Him alone. It is not a house built on sand by the hands of men and subject to "every stormy wind that blows." This salvation is more a thing of beauty than was Mount Zion in that the beauty of Christ radiates from it. *And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Psalms 90:17. bhs*

The Look of Supplication.

"But our eyes are upon you" (2 Chronicles 20:12).

The setting of those words is very striking. A great army of the heathen had gathered together to do battle against Judah. When their king was informed, he "set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast" (verse 3). Then, in the hearing of the congregation, he addressed himself unto the God of their fathers, saying, "O our God, will you not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that comes against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon you!" It was an earnest appeal unto the omnipotent One by those in the place of conscious weakness and helplessness. It was likewise an expression of humble but confident faith. It was also an expectation of help from the Almighty. Nor was this simple but affecting supplication in vain. Of course it was not! Jehovah made answer: "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours — but God's" (verse 15). He caused the enemy to fall upon themselves, "and none escaped" (verse 24). There is the grand remedy for every strait. No matter how desperate the situation — nothing is too hard for the LORD! Turn unto Him the eyes of faith, of dependence, of reliance, of confident expectation — and you will not be disappointed. *Arthur Pink*

The omnipotent God is your God!

([James Smith](#), "The Believer's Companion in Seasons of Affliction and Trouble" 1842)

"*With God all things are possible!*" Matthew 19:26

The *omnipotence* of Jehovah is ruled by His *wisdom* and *holiness*, His *justice* and *love*. He can do everything *consistent* with those attributes--but nothing *contrary* to them.

God's omnipotence is altogether on the believer's side. All that God consistently *can* do--He *will* do for His people. Nothing is too hard for the Lord.

He can make us *contented* in the most trying circumstances--and *happy* in the deepest affliction. He can so bring down our minds to our condition--that we shall glory in tribulation. He can turn darkness into light, and bitter into sweet; and bring the richest joy out of the deepest sorrow.

The omnipotent God is your God! His omnipotence is engaged for you!

Do not look at *your difficulties*--but at the omnipotent God as engaged for you!

Do not look too much at *what you are*--but at what your God can make you!

Do not dwell on *your own weakness*--but on the Lord's strength!

Call nothing impossible. "Is anything too hard for Me? Do not I fill Heaven and earth, says the Lord?" His *ways* are in the sea, His *paths* in the mighty waters, and His *footsteps* are not known!

It is possible for God to hold you fast . . .

in the most slippery path, when surrounded by the most determined foes, and feeling the greatest weakness--and He will do so!

None shall be able to pluck you out of His hand!

It is possible for God to supply all your needs, in the most trying times; as He did Elijah by the ravens, and the poor widow by the increase of the oil and meal. And He will do so! Only seek the Lord, trust in the Lord, leave difficulties with the Lord--and you shall not lack any *good* thing. He will display His wisdom, sovereignty, pity, and power in dealing with you; and perhaps fill you with wonder, surprise, and love, at His ways.

All that God *is*--He is to you!

All He *has*--He has for you!

All He has *promised*--He will fulfill in you!

Ever, ever remember that all things are possible to . . . your God, your Father, your Savior, and your Friend!

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13



"A humble and prayerful person will find a thousand things in the Bible, which the proud student will utterly fail to discern." ~ J.C. Ryle

"What gives preaching its seriousness is that the mantle of the preacher is soaked with the blood of Jesus and singed with the fire of hell." --John Piper