

The great truth is this — all that concerns the believer is in the hands of the Almighty God. “My times”, these change and shift; but they change only in accordance with unchanging love, and they shift only according to the purpose of One with whom is no variableness nor shadow of a turning. “My times”, that is to say, my ups and my downs, my health and my sickness, my poverty and my wealth — all those are in the hand of the Lord, who arranges and appoints according to his holy will the length of my days, and the darkness of my nights. Storms and calms vary the seasons at the divine appointment. Whether times are reviving or depressing remains with him who is Lord both of time and of eternity; and we are glad it is so. Charles Spurgeon



KEACH’S CATECHISM – Benjamin Keach 1640 - 1704

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Q. 55. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me: and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.”

(Exodus 20:4-6)

Q. 56. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances, as God has appointed in His Word.

(Deut. 32:46; Matt. 28:20; Deut. 12:32)

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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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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. Isaiah 40:28

When things are not as men think they should be they often turn to idols. When the people saw that Moses was a long time coming down from the Mount they despaired and the result of that despair was the worship of a Golden Calf. How quickly they had forgotten the display of the mighty power of God in bringing them out of bondage in Egypt. How soon were they looking to their own devices and the patterns of pagan worship they had witnessed in Egypt. Men continue to this day to act in the same way. If scriptural precepts do not seem to work in accordance with their expectations they devise their own ways. Such things appeal to the desires of men and engender personal satisfaction. In fact these things serve to blot out essential truth about God, His power, His purpose and especially His Son.

The problem of despondency and doubt is addressed and challenged by the prophet in this chapter. He does not employ questionable ideas and methods to turn the people from their idolatrous ways. He would point to what they should know of God. The language used here speaks of urgency and alarm. There is even an element of unbelief that they could have been so long in Israel and not know the truths he would declare. How could they have read the Word, heard the messages and been given the miraculous history of the nation and not know God as the one Who had brought it all about? To the prophet it seems incredible and he sounds the alarm.

A recurring message in all the Scripture is that God does not need or ask for the help of men. Here the prophet rehearses the acts of God that should be enough to persuade of that fact. Have you not known; Have you not heard; these things about God? First, have you heard that He is eternal and therefore precedes all that is material and that He dwelt in a solitary existence? If this is true then the origin of all things comes from Him. Secondly, do you not know that He is Lord? That is, He is the ruler, over all that transpired and that even now transpires. Paul tells us of Christ that “by Him all things consist.” That is, they are held together and made to function. He is the creator of all the “ends of the earth.” Nothing was left to chance nor was there ever the possibility that God’s design in creation could be frustrated. If, the evolutionists could substantiate their claims this passage and many others would be made null and void. Anything less than understanding the absolute power and control of God denigrates the very character and integrity of God. Do you not know that God the creator and Lord of all also judges righteously in the world? It is amazing to the prophet and to true believers everywhere that any should dare to question the report of God, His greatness and His redemption. Yet later, this same prophet laments, *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? Isaiah 53:1.*

Furthermore, in continuing and sustaining

His creation He manifests infinite wisdom. "There is no searching of His understanding." Men realize that the most of the mass of an iceberg is beneath the surface of the water. They should realize that we have only comprehended a small portion of the wisdom and knowledge of God. Truly "His ways are past finding out." As to the creation of the heavens and the earth, we read that *And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: Hebrews 1:10.* Man sees no visible foundation for either the heavens or the earth and yet, they continue in their orbits and hang suspended in the heavens. Have you not heard that "it is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth." For all that they have heard they choose to believe the lie and be damned.

It is in the redemption of fallen man that we see the greatest display of the wisdom and power of God. Have you not heard that man has been tried in the balances and found wanting? Have you not known that there is none that either understands or seeks after God. Have you heard that the same God who made the heavens and the earth, set them in motions and

continues them on their ways has also made new creatures of men? You must be born again! Do you not know that God sent His Son into the world to live a perfect life because no man could? Have you not heard of His agony on Calvary's cross as He suffered, "the just for the unjust?" Do you not realize that He who hung the stars in their place and made them to stay there has manifested even greater power in raising His Son from the dead? Have you not heard that He sits on the Right Hand of Power on High there to intercede for those He has redeemed so that none are ever lost? Have you heard that there are a people in the world, the work of His hands, bought with a price, quickened by His Spirit who daily cry unto Him and are heard in that He is faithful.

Paul wrote: *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 1 Corinthians 1:21.* What a wonderful Gospel we preach and how we desire that men should hear and believe and rejoice in the redemption that is born out of the eternal wisdom of God. *bhs*

The Look of Expectation.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). That is a very different thing from having the mind engaged with signs of the times or charmed with the study of prophecy; or even being on the alert for the next appointed item on the divine program. It is concerned not so much with an event — as with the advent of a Person. The second coming of Christ is ridiculed by the infidel (2 Peter 3:2-4) and dreaded by the world (2 Thessalonians 1:8); but it is regarded by the saints with great delight, for then will be the perfecting of their salvation (Hebrews 9:26). Titus 2:13 describes a spiritual attitude of heart. It is an attitude of faith — and faith is not influenced by sensational items taken from the newspapers! It is an attitude of hope — joyous anticipation of our being rid of sin. It is an attitude of love, so that we cry, "Make haste, my beloved, and be like to a roe or to a young deer upon the mountains of spices" (Song 8:14).

Such looking . . . weans the heart from the world (Heb 11:9-10), produces patience in trials (Jam 5:6-8), and purifies the heart (1 John 3:3).

Therein we may behold the practical side of our blessed hope. Such an expectation of the returning Savior works in us a careful attention to our conduct, that we may "not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28). A. W. Pink

To worry about the future is to sin against God.

Someone has said, "You can't change the past, but you can ruin a perfectly good present by worrying about the future." Worry does ruin the present, but even more important for the believer is to recognize that worry is sin. Let's look at why that is so.

Worry means you are striking out at God. Someone might say, "Worry is a small, trivial sin." But that's not true. More important than what worry does to you is what it does to God. When you worry, you are saying in effect, "God, I just don't think I can trust You." Worry strikes a blow at God's integrity and love for you.

Worry means you are disbelieving Scripture. You can say, "I believe in the inerrancy of Scripture. I believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of every word," and then just live your life worrying. You are saying you believe the Bible, but then worry about God fulfilling what He says in it. Worry means you are being mastered by circumstances. Let the truths of God's Word, not your circumstances, control your thinking. By worrying, you make the circumstances and trials of life a bigger issue than your salvation. If you believe God can save you from eternal Hell, also believe He can help you in this world as He has promised.

Worry means you are distrusting God. If you worry, you're not trusting your Heavenly Father. And if you're not trusting Him, perhaps it's because you don't know Him well enough. Study God's Word to find out who He really is and how He has been faithful to supply the needs of His people in the past. Doing so will help give you confidence for the future. Allow His Word to indwell you richly so that you aren't making yourself vulnerable to Satan's temptations to worry. *Copied*

Conversion is a Complete Change of Existence

To be "born of God" is to be the subject of an inward change of heart, so complete, that it is like passing into a new existence. It is the introduction into the human soul of a seed from heaven, a new principle, a Divine nature, a new will. Certainly it is no outward bodily alteration; but it is no less certain that it is an entire alteration of the inward man. It adds no new faculties to our minds; but it gives an entirely new bent and bias to our old ones. The tastes and opinions of one "born of God," his views of sin, of the world, of the Bible, of God, and of Christ, are so thoroughly new, that he is to all intents and purposes what Paul calls "a new creature."

~ J.C. Ryle



"Grace is a provision for men who are so fallen that they cannot lift the axe of justice, so corrupt that they cannot change their own natures, so averse to God that they cannot turn to Him, so blind that they cannot see Him, so deaf that they cannot hear Him, and so dead that He Himself must open their graves and lift them into resurrection." -G.S. Bishop

Better be pruned to grow than cut up to burn. —John Trapp