

All things, all creatures, and all events!

It is a consolation to know that Jesus reigns, and that all things, all creatures, and all events are in His hands, and beneath His control.

Oh, what a privilege for such worms of the earth to have fellowship with the great and mighty God of the universe, and such nearness of access to the very heart of a precious Jesus!
(Mary Winslow, Walking with Jesus")



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. 65. Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

A. From the creation of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

(Gen. 2:3; John 20:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10)

Q. 66. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days, and spending the time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

(Lev. 23:3; Isa. 58:13-14; Isa. 66:23; Matt. 12:11-12)

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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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THIS IS OUR GOD

And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Isaiah 25:9

Failure to recognize the deity of Christ is characteristic of a shallow and unbelieving people. For that reason we hear the Name of Christ tossed around in a familiar way in the absence of true worship. We even hear the invocation of that precious name in vulgar and slanderous cursing and swearing. The scripture is unmistakable as to the deity of Christ in declaring that He is God manifest in the flesh. See 1 Timothy 3:16. The Apostles confessed readily that He was the Christ, the promised Son of God and God the Son. While they often wavered in their conviction in the end Thomas, the doubting one, called Him “my Lord and My God.” The lack of reverence in the typical religious conversation betrays an absence of such conviction in our day.

This text seems to be prophetic of the ultimate consummation of the relationship between the Lord and His people. Yet, there is a sense in which the truth that is expressed is incorporated in the revelation of Christ to any in any age. In the end He will have completely swallowed up death in victory (see verse 8) and He will have spread a feast before His people that we can only imagine (See verse 6). The anticipation of the Lord’s people is ever to the appearing of “that Blessed Hope” which is Christ Jesus our Lord. A wise man once observed that the hope of the believer is not an event—it is a person. But the things expressed here are known by all true believers. And so we point to Christ and declare, “Lo, this is our God...” See:

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:18. It is a grave error that any should treat the worship of God in Christ in a casual way now with the thought that they will be more serious in Heaven. Paul advised the Philippians that if the Lord had begun a good work now, He would continue it until the end.

What would we say if we were asked to introduce the Lord to someone? The typical thing in making an introduction is to refer to some identifying office, accomplishment or relationship. We might say something like, “I would like you to meet the president of our company.” Or we might say, “I would like you to meet my brother or sister or some other relative. How often do we talk to someone about Jesus and discuss Him as someone at a distance. There are many wonderful and true things that could be said about Him. But, would the person addressed sense that you were talking about someone who was there present with you? What if we were to say, “Lo, this is my God and Jesus the Son of God who has saved me from my sins?” This is the witness that the Lord anticipates. Certainly it will be so in that day in the future when all shall be revealed with Him.

We then consider the present reality of our relationship with Him. There was an anticipation of the coming of the Lord expressed throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. The prophets wrote of something they knew to be wonderful but could not clearly see. They continued

however to search and promises were looked to and claimed. When Christ came into the world we are told that His own people did not receive Him as a nation. But there were people who did. Andrew's message to his brother, Peter, was "we have found the Messiah." Since the first coming of Christ His people have been waiting for His return with great anticipation. But, in that He has already appeared and accomplished all the will of the Father with regard to redemption there is a difference. Those who now wait on Him know who He is and what He has done. Such will be the tone of the response in "that day," and it is even now in the hearts of those who trust Him. It is that they know Him personally and they walk with Him in a mutually loving relationship. Lo, this is my God who came into the world to suffer as a man in my place on the cross. This is the Lamb of God who obtained satisfaction for me before the Father by His suffering and death. This is my intercessor who has secured my place with Him forever and ever. This is King Jesus who rules and reigns sovereignly and perfectly over all of

creation. This is my Lord who is coming again bodily to receive me unto Himself. Lo, this is my God in whom is all my delight!

He is not one of the idols of men who can neither speak nor act to accomplish salvation. This is not such a one who must be carried on the backs of men and who is dependent on them for expression. He acts in perfect power in manifesting perfect wisdom and carries out His perfect will and purpose and who loves with an infallible and eternal love. Thus, a true believer can never be casual or careless in speaking of His Lord and His God. He cannot be silent with regard to either the person or the work of Christ. Perhaps we should practice completing the sentence, "Lo, this is my God who _____." Perhaps we would begin with "created the heavens and the earth." We might add, "who has saved His people from their sins." Of course we would say, "Who has saved me from my sins and has raised me up and made me sit together with Him in heavenly places." Knowing that there is no end to His praise we might say of our beloved, "Yea He is altogether lovely." *bhs*

Two inseparable companions

(Thomas Sherman, "Divine Breathings; Or, a Pious Soul Thirsting after Christ")

"Blessed are those who mourn--for they will be comforted!" Matthew 5:4

Sin and sorrow are two inseparable companions; you can not indulge the one--and be without the other. If your moments are now spent in carnal mirth--then your eternity will be spent in ceaseless mourning. If you will not weep for sin now, while you may have mercy to pardon you--you will lament hereafter, and have no eye to pity you! A bottle of tears may now quench the fire of sin--but a sea of tears will never quench the flames of Hell!

Therefore while the wicked continue laughing--I will continue to mourn. Through the Valley of Bochim (weeping)--I shall pass to the Heavenly Zion. But the paths of carnal mirth--will bring me into a Hell of weeping; for he who swims in sin--shall sink in sorrow! His laughter shall be turned into heaviness; but my tears shall be wiped away! I will therefore ever weep--that I may not weep forever!

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:42

The Religion Shop is Closed

Christianity is not a religion; it is the announcement of the end of religion. Religion consists of all the things (believing, behaving, worshiping, sacrificing) the human race has ever thought it had to do to get right with God. About those things, Christianity has only two comments to make. The first is that none of them ever had the least chance of doing the trick: the blood of bulls and goats can never take away sins (see the Epistle to the Hebrews) and no effort of ours to keep the law of God can ever succeed (see the Epistle to the Romans). The second is that everything religion tried (and failed) to do has been perfectly done, once and for all, by Jesus in his death and resurrection.

For Christians, therefore, the entire religion shop has been closed, boarded up, and forgotten. The church is not in the religion business. It never has been and it never will be, in spite of all the ecclesiastical turkeys through two thousand years who have acted as if religion was their stock in trade. The church, instead, is in the Gospel-proclaiming business. It is not here to bring the world the bad news that God will think kindly about us only after we have gone through certain credal, liturgical, and ethical wickets; it is here to bring the world the Good News that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly." It is here, in short, for no religious purpose at all, only to announce the Gospel of free grace.

Robert Farrar Capon

The Fellowship

The Bible tells us that the Father loves the Son and that the Son loves the Father and that they share all things in the love and unchained fellowship of the Spirit. Nothing that could be said about God is more fundamental than this mutual love and this fellowship... Everything else to be said about God is a variation on this theme, a description of this relationship of Father, Son and Spirit. When we talk about the love of God, we are talking about the relationship of the Father, Son and Spirit. When we talk about the holiness of God, we are trying to describe the wholeness and purity and integrity, the beauty, of the fellowship of the Trinity. When we talk about the righteousness of God, we are talking about the sheer rightness of their relationship. When we talk about the fullness of God or the blessedness of God, we are talking about the unbridled life, the irrepressible joy and unspeakable goodness of the Father, Son and Spirit. To believe in the Trinity means that we believe that God is a relational being. ~C. Baxter Kruger

"Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open."

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest."

Both from Corrie Ten Boom