

## Self-Righteousness

"If we would come to Christ, we must come away from sin. Repentance must make us turn from sin, and faith must make us turn to Christ-and we must also come away from self-righteousness if we are to come to Christ. It is very difficult for some people to part with their selfrighteousness. They have looked in the mirror till they are in love with themselves and they cannot bear to be separated from their beloved self. They feel so good, so proper, so respectable, so excellent, so amiable, so lovely and so dear to themselves that they would gladly hang about the neck of their self-righteousness and embrace it as long as they can!"

C.H. Spurgeon



## 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. 67. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly employments or recreations.

(Ezekiel 22:26; 23:38; Jer. 17:21; Neh. 13:15-17; Acts 20:7)

Q. 68. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, His challenging a special propriety in the seventh, His own example and His blessing the Sabbath day.

(Exodus 34:21; 31:16-17; Gen. 2:2-3)

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#### 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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### APPROVED UNTO GOD

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15*

Most of us appreciate the approval of others. Such approval may be with regard to some talent or some good deed or even in some cases evil deeds. It is that wherein we receive confirmation for our motives and the results that follow our endeavors. Little children smile at the approval coming from those they love and respect. Many gloat that someone else believes that something they have done is good. A hoodlum will approve the efforts of a cohort. While one workman may commend the ability and the work of another, the child of God can only be truly satisfied with the approval of his Heavenly Father. He longs to hear “well done thou good and faithful servant.” The believer delights in such approval, not that he may brag, but that he and his effort are found acceptable to the God he loves. Even then he knows that his acceptance with God is in Christ and the merit and is none of our own.

Such effort is set off against other activities of men. In the preceding verse Paul warns against becoming involved in “words to no profit.” Such is the case of many who would exert great effort to prove a point without any thought to the glory of God and the good of the hearers. They would rather establish themselves in their own way than to display the nature of acceptance with God. To them, the Gospel and the glory of God are not so important. In the following verse the warning is about vain babbling. John Gill likened these things to large bubbles that look impressive and make a lot of

noise but have nothing in them. Such is the manner of many who present themselves in a showy way that is appealing to the flesh but that is found without true substance. *Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow. Isaiah 50:11.*

Paul would rather direct Timothy to seek the approval of God. If God does not approve, nothing else matters. To emphasize this Paul uses the word “study” or “give diligence” with the aim of attaining to divine approval. To many, the thought of “study” here only applies to reading. Certainly it is to be advised that one read the Scriptures and such literature that teaches us the things of God that we might be well informed and equipped for the tasks of Christian service. Elsewhere, Paul would encourage the study of the Word in order to be properly fit. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.* It is to be noted that the approval sought is as a workman. It is the approval of God and not men that is sought. As such it will be consistent with the heart of a man in whom the Lord is. *Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Psalms 84:5.*

There is promise where the approval of the Lord is sought. The approval here is not with regard to the success of any particular work. It is obvious that the Lord looks on the heart and it is the manner in which the work of the Lord is pursued. The confidence that may be had is that there will be no embarrassment or confounding with that which seeks the Lord's approval. The works of men will be found to be of no consequence in the end. That which is done by faith will eternally redound to the glory of God in that its origin and purpose are found in Christ our Lord. We have the assurance that all is of Grace in the life of true believers and therefore there is no view to reward or recognition above others. It is rather that we would please Him who had called us to serve Him. Many will be disappointed when, in spite of doing "many wonderful works" they shall hear, "...I never knew you."

The "workman that needeth not to be ashamed" will be recognized in that he will "rightly divide the Word of Truth." The thought here is not of dissecting the Word so much as it is engaging in the right use of the Word. Many are content with mere knowledge of the Bible.

They readily recite facts and are able to formulate systematic theologies. But, it is the application of the Word that matters. This is first and foremost the burden of ministers and all those who would share the Word. It is good that one can quote John 3:16. But, it is another matter to put it into its proper context and to display both the will and the wisdom of God toward believers. Many are intent on generalizing the verse to emphasize availability to all rather than to focus on the success of the redeeming work of Christ on the behalf of believers – not all without exception.

There is no greater thought than that we should be approved of God. Such approval comes to us, not of our own will, but according to His grace and mercy given us in Christ Jesus through His death, burial and resurrection. There is no way that a man could earn such approval or even make a contribution to such approval as is given in Christ. It remains then for us to "study" or "give diligence" not to earn but to show that we are approved of God. This is done as we diligently serve and make right use of His precious Word. *bhs*

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## THE DEVIL'S DELUSION

There will be many in the Lake of Fire who lived life with good intentions, honest resolutions and exalted ideals; those who were just in their dealings, fair in their transactions and charitable in all their ways; men who prided themselves in their integrity, but who sought to justify themselves before God by their own righteousness; men who were moral, merciful and magnanimous; but who never saw themselves as guilty, lost, hell deserving sinners needing a Savior. The devil's delusion is that we can be saved by our own works, and justified by our own deeds. God's truth states that salvation is "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7).

– Arthur W. Pink (1886-1952), English theologian (Quoted by Daniel Parks)

## WHY WE PREACH CHRIST

Have you noticed that many religious leaders devote their ministries to such things as pre-marital counseling, marriage enrichment, family values, domestic harmony, parenting skills, divorce mediation, divorce recovery, self esteem, stress management, anger control, financial success, social activism, racial pride, inter-racial harmony, equal rights, political views, religious entertainment, end-time preparation, church attendance, church growth, denominational distinctives, inter-faith unity, sectarian debates, freewill works, sabbath observance, dietary guidance, weight loss, addiction recovery, right to life/abort, grief coping, how to ...?

Have you noticed that preachers in the Bible did not devote themselves to such things?

Have you noticed that Biblical preachers were devoted to preaching Christ alone? Paul the apostle speaks for them all when he declares: "We ... preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God" (Acts 14:15); "We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord" (2 Corinthians 4:5); "We preach Christ crucified, ... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23f); "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Do you suppose these preachers of Christ had no need to do as the above-cited religious leaders do because they preached Christ instead? And do you suppose those religious leaders have to cope with the world's problems in their religious circles because they do not preach Christ? I do!

And I say to you: "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ... For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him" (Colossians 1:28; 2:9f). Note especially those two words "perfect" and "complete".

We preach Christ with the assurance that, if you heed the message we preach, you will during this present life be "complete in Him". The Greek word translated complete (from the verb plēroō) means "full to the top".

We preach Christ with the assurance that, if you heed the message we preach, you will at the last day be "perfect in Christ Jesus". The Greek adjective translated perfect (teleion) means "wanting nothing necessary to completeness".

We preach Christ with the assurance that, if you heed the message we preach, you will not need the ministry of anyone else preaching something else. They are necessary to those who do not heed the Christ we preach.

– Daniel E. Parks

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"Live as if you thought that Christ might come at any time." ~ J.C. Ryle

"Millions of people profess and call themselves Christians, whom the Apostle Paul would not have called Christians at all." ~ J.C. Ryle

"Glory not in your own faith, your own feelings, your own knowledge, your own prayers, and your own diligence. Glory in nothing but Christ. Alas! The best of us know but little of that merciful and mighty Savior. We do not exalt Him and glory in Him enough. Let us pray that we may see more of the fullness there is in Him." ~ J.C. Ryle