

"Lord, for tomorrow and its needs, I do not pray; Keep me, my God, from stain of sin just for today. Let me both diligently work, And duly pray. Let me be kind in word and deed, just for today. Let me be slow to do my will, Prompt to obey; Help me to sacrifice myself just for today... So for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray, But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord, just for today." Augustine



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. 85. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's."

(Exodus 20:17)

Q. 86. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit towards our neighbor, and all that is his.

(Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Lev. 19:18)

Q. 87. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

(1 Cor. 10:10; James 5:9; Gal. 5:26; Col. 3:5)

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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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THE GENTLENESS OF CHRIST

Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: 2 Corinthians 10:1

Men tend to hide weakness with a display of boldness and confidence. They fear that the discovery of weakness will lead to a loss of respect from others. This is particularly true of those in positions of power and authority. The fact of weakness cannot be taken away by such a misrepresentation of one's person. As in so much of human behavior the Biblical precept is that we acknowledge such weakness. And, the teaching is that the way to greatness is found in a consciousness of weakness. The ultimate pattern and example to us in all things is Christ. We are directed to observe His earthly sojourn and ministry. After all He was in this world to represent the believer in both His life and His sacrifice. The merits of the life of Christ are imputed to the believer and it follows that we should endeavor to see this life worked out in us.

The Apostle Paul came under serious attack and persecution by some at Corinth. People in this church that He had founded begin to aspire to place themselves above Paul's authority. Since he was an Apostle with divinely appointed gifts and powers, their opposition was, in fact, opposition to the Lord Himself. Their tactics were those we often see in politicians in their campaigns. These folks sought to discredit Paul in any way they could. They impugned his character, questioned his honesty, challenged his authority, doubted his Gospel, ridiculed his stature and appearance and concluded that he was weak and ineffective. We who have rejoiced

in the grace of God championed by Paul stand in amazement that any could treat him this way. The typical reaction of men under such circumstances would be to retaliate in kind. This Paul could have done but chose otherwise.

Paul revealed an important aspect of his character and that of all true believers. It is something placed within by the Holy Spirit in that "gentleness" or kindness is named as a fruit of the Spirit. Thus, two things are called out. The first is that there is kindness witnessed in every aspect of God's dealings with men. It is a kindness that He contemplated the condition of fallen man at all. But, in all that He reveals to us and for us we are constrained to acknowledge kindness beyond measure. The hymn writer, Frederick Faber, wrote "There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty." This would be difficult to understand if it was not for the fact of His justice being satisfied on Christ in the interest of His own. That we should have the air that we breathe is kindness on God's part.

The second thing we see pointed out in Paul's action and example is that "we have the mind of Christ" and are empowered to act in the same way. In looking to the extent of the "gentleness" of Christ in going to the cross without raising a single word or thought of objection, we are called to endure without murmuring. We are to act toward others as He did toward us. This is the work of grace in our hearts that we should desire to act as Christ would. We are blessed in the gentleness of

Christ and with the gentleness of Christ.

It is interesting to note that David responded to personal success in a similar manner. *Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. Psalms 18:35.* These words were written after the Lord had given him the victory over Saul and all his enemies. It was an acknowledgement of his humble beginnings and of his ability to be patient as the Lord worked out the details. Men do not think of greatness coming by way of gentleness. They rather think of aggression and self-seeking. The way of David and the method of Paul was to be forthcoming with their opinion of themselves as before God. It is obvious that the Corinthian's opposing Paul had erred greatly in their interpretation of his objectives and his Godly intentions for them. He had reminded them before that there was no quest for personal gain. *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2.* So now, he would beseech them in reference to this same Christ and put it all in the context of salvation.

This did not mean that Paul was

compromising in any way. He would fully assert that which needed to be said. But, he would do it out of concern for them and the wrong courses they were following. As he wrote to them they could not see his small stature or base appearance. They could not berate him because of his "thorn in the flesh." His words were truth and Spirit filled. His boldness toward them was clearly with apostolic authority. But, they were words born out of his gentle care for them and that was born out of the gentle care he had received at the hands of God in Christ.

There is no accusation the world can make of us that is not true in some regard. There is no need for us to proudly defend ourselves. We are reminded of the encouraging words: *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Romans 8:33.* So, it behooves us to maintain that attitude of gentleness or kindness in all our relationships; not merely for the purpose of "feeling good," but because it reflects Christ in us as it should. We learn this in the yoke with Christ: *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:29. bhs*

God's hand in everything!

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered!" Matthew 10:29-30

How unspeakably precious and sweet it is when we can believe that God our Father in Heaven is absolutely directing the most minute circumstances of our short sojourn in this wilderness world! That nothing, however trivial, takes place, whether it relates to the body or the soul--but is under His control, in fact, is ordered by Himself!

But how hard to believe this, particularly when things look dark, and we cannot discern the way we should take. It is, then, the province of faith to wait upon the Lord, keeping a steadfast eye upon Him only; looking for light, help, and deliverance, not from the creature, but from Jehovah Himself. Well may it be called precious faith!

How happy do those travel on, whose faith can discern God's hand in everything. But I fear the number is very small, who so live.

I cannot imagine how those who deny God's particular providence can get comfortably on, for they must perpetually be confronted with minute events in their history, as mysterious and baffling to them as greater ones.

(Mary Winslow)

“MADE BY GOD IN HEAVEN”

I recently visited a hardware store to purchase a power drill. I explained to professionals there what features I desired in it. They showed to me two drills featuring them, costing almost the same amount, being almost identical except in brand name. I was told both were highly regarded.

While deciding which drill I should purchase, I noted that one was made in a country noteworthy for producing dependable merchandise, while the other was made in a country notorious for producing shoddy merchandise.

On that basis I made my choice. I rejected the drill from the notorious source, and purchased the drill from the noteworthy source.

A similar situation exists in the spiritual realm. There are two ways said to have the same features: Jesus, grace, faith, salvation, righteousness, holiness, and so forth. (They are very much alike because one is a counterfeit of the other.) Each is highly regarded and recommended by its adherents. But upon close examination you will note that one of them is “Made by Men in Babylon” and the other is “Made by God in Heaven”.

I have found the merchandise from the former place to be shoddy. Everything it promises – salvation, justification, sanctification, reconciliation, and so forth – is dependent upon the user’s “freewill”. (Look for “Some Assembly Required” and “Batteries Not Included” in small print on its label.) Such merchandise therefore fails when most needed. (Look for “Limited Warranty” in small print on its label.) Its Jesus is “another Jesus” which cannot save (2 Corinthians 11:4). (But look for “NEW AND IMPROVED” in big print on its label.) Its gospel is “another gospel” which brings a curse upon the user (Galatians 1:6-9). (Look for “Manufacturer not responsible if product fails to work correctly.”) Its grace is merited by the user’s works, and therefore is not unmerited favor, and will not avail (Romans 11:6). I therefore reject everything “Made by Men in Babylon”.

I have found everything “Made by God in Heaven” to be absolutely perfect. Everything it promises – salvation, justification, sanctification, reconciliation, and so forth – is grounded in the eternally omnipotent and sovereign God of heaven and earth, and in no way dependent upon the recipient’s “freewill”. Therefore nothing from Heaven ever fails: its Jesus saves (Matthew 1:21); its gospel is effectual (Romans 1:16); its power keeps (1 Peter 1:3-5).

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17). I want them all! He made them all to be found in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, “the Lord from heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:47) and the “Bread from heaven” (John 6:32-58), who having wrought a perfect work shouted in victory “It is finished!” (John 19:30).

Everything “Made by God in Heaven” is infinitely beyond the monetary resources of all mankind. But they all are freely given to all who believe in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

– Daniel E. Parks