

God wants worshippers before workers; indeed the only acceptable workers are those who have learned the lost art of worship. It is inconceivable that a sovereign and holy God should be so hard up for workers that He would press into service anyone who had been empowered regardless of his moral qualifications. The very stones would praise Him if the need arose and a thousand legions of angels would leap to do His will. A.W. Tozer

“That which should distinguish the suffering of believers from unbelievers is the confidence that our suffering is under the control of an all-powerful and all-loving God. Our suffering has meaning and purpose in God's eternal plan, and He brings or allows to come into our lives only that which is for His glory and our good.” — Jerry Bridges



### 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. 90. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A. Some sins in themselves and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

(Ezekiel 8:13; John 19:11; 1 John 5:16)

Q. 91. What does every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

(Eph.5:6; Gal. 3:10; Prov. 3:33; Ps. 11:6; Rev. 21:8)

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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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### THE CUP FROM THE FATHER

*Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? John 18:11*

The time for our Lord to be taken had come. He had been telling the twelve that these things would happen and now they who would arrest Him were at hand. His enemies would have often taken Him before now but the time had not yet come. Now all things had been accomplished and only one thing waited. The sacrifice was ready. In the Old Testament the Passover Lamb had been made ready. In this case it was Christ who had prepared Himself to be offered and He was ready. He had been examined under the accusing eyes of men and was found to be perfect. More importantly He had been approved by the Father for the task that lay before Him. The essential work of salvation was about to be done.

A short time before this He had fervently prayed concerning the cup that was to be given Him to drink. He prayed ...Saying, *Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. Luke 22:42.* As a man His flesh naturally recoiled at the thought of what was to come upon Him and yet there was never any doubt as to what He would do. So, He bows completely to the will of the Father and so it was decided. This time, when He speaks of the cup it is already in His hand and He had begun the ordeal that would end in His death. This was the very purpose for which He had come into the world and in pursuit of the divine purpose He had sought to please the Father in all things. Was it because He loved the Father? Of course! But, it was, also,

so that He could present Himself as the only sacrifice that would be suitable. This He had done.

The figure used here is interesting. When we think of a cup we normally picture a small vessel from which one drinks. In an old Christian based Webster's dictionary one of the meanings is: "In a scriptural sense, sufferings and afflictions; that which is to be received or endured." It can, also be used in the sense of a joy filled life such as *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Psalms 23:5.* David referred to the "cup of salvation" in Psalm 116. Our cup is that which is appointed to us with all that goes with it. Christ's joy was deferred. *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2.* Two things amaze us at this point. One is that this was the cup His Father had given Him. The second is the willingness of Christ in taking it. Can we even imagine the great love which motivated both in this sacrifice?

Peter still didn't get it. So, he endeavored to protect His beloved Master. We know now that He could have called a vast number of Angels to His aid. But, of greater note here is the way He expresses Himself to them. The cup had been given to Him – not to Peter or any other. "Shall I not drink it? No other could accomplish the will

of God. There was no other who could stand before the false accusers and tormentors among men and not open His Mouth. *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. Isaiah 53:7.* No other could endure such pain and not cry out. No other could remain completely removed from His own comfort in order to obtain the consolation of His people. Only His soul was fit to be made an offering for sin. No other would be able to completely satisfy the justice of God in the behalf of those He came to save. It is as if to say “how shall I not drink it?” So much was at stake and such great love was in action. Every true believer confesses that “I stand Amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene.” This is especially true when we think of the cup that He certainly did drink.

Thus, He suffered under the rejection of men. Humiliation, denial, torture and the false witness of men awaited. But the worst would be that as He bore our sins in His body on the cross,

the Father Himself would reject Him. The cup was the awfulness of sin being placed on Him “who knew no sin” and the wrath of God poured out on Him to the degree that He cried out, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?” This is the cup that could not pass from Him if salvation were to be accomplished. This was both the perfect life and the perfect suffering that God required. God would accept nothing less. Only in this way could any be justified, sanctified and made acceptable in the presence of God through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. It is this that we are to believe and trust. That is why it is an insult to God to suggest that we might do something that would add to what was accomplished when He took the cup for those who come to trust Him.

With David of old we are to take the cup of salvation: *What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. Psalms 116:12-14. bhs.*

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## PREACHERS TODAY VERSUS PREACHERS OF OLD

Preachers today are licensed and ordained by the church; men of old were ordained and sent by God.

Preachers today go forth armed with degrees and credentials; men of old went forth anointed by the Holy Spirit.

Preachers today are questioned by committees and hired to preach what the church believes; men of old came preaching, “Thus saith the Lord.”

Preachers today give themselves to programs, visitation, church business; men of old gave themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Preachers today preach and men are persuaded to move their membership; men of old preached and “they were pricked in their hearts and cried, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

Preachers today pray and the organ plays softly; Elijah prayed and the fire of God fell.

Preachers today are afraid that they will offend someone; Paul was afraid that he would not. If there is no offence, the gospel has not been preached. – Anonymous -- *Quoted by Daniel Parks*

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In efficacious grace we are not merely passive, nor yet does God do some and we do the rest. But God does all, and we do all. God produces all, we act all. For that is what produces our own acts. God is the only proper author and fountain; we only are the proper actors. We are in different respects, wholly passive and wholly active.  
Jonathan Edwards

Nearing Home  
By Pastor H. Rondel Rumburg, D.Min.

The one who is trusting in Christ alone for eternal salvation has great prospects because to be in Christ is to be a new creature. In saving grace old things are passing away and all things are presenting new perspectives. These prospects seem to increase as the qualities of human life perpetually decrease. Perhaps God in His providence is beginning our weaning process as we begin more often looking for the things not seen. I think of Robert Murray McCheyne's hymn, wherein Bobby wrote:

When this passing world is done,  
When has sunk yon glaring sun,  
When we stand with Christ in glory,  
Looking o'er life's finished story,  
Then, Lord, shall I fully know,  
Not till then, how much I owe.

How can we put a value on the soul and physical sufferings of Christ in our behalf? We who have nothing to offer Him but our sins! He who lived a righteous life has by grace imputed His righteousness to us and atoned for our sins. Truly as the hymn writer expressed, "A debtor to mercy alone" is so true of every saint. The last stanza of McCheyne's hymn said:

Chosen not for good in me,  
Wakened up from wrath to flee,  
Hidden in the Saviour's side,  
By the Spirit sanctified,  
Teach me, Lord on earth to show,  
By my love, how much I owe.

We are to live by faith and when it is God's will we are to die by grace. My great-great grandfather William P. Lilly who was a preacher of grace died in 1892. His obituary said in part, "He said in his last days that he had preached salvation by grace and grace alone; he yet believed it and was willing to live by it and when it was God's will he was willing to die by it. He died in his 57th year and he was buried near his old home in the presence of his family, and relatives, brethren and friends...." We must live by grace and then die by it as well.

The Scottish preacher John Brown of Haddington wrote at the end of his days, "Reading tires me, walking tires me, riding tires me; but were I once with Jesus, fellowship with Him will never tire me. 'So shall we ever be with the Lord.' Oh, that sweet little sentence! 'We shall be forever with the Lord.' Oh, how sweet—forever with the Lord! And that which makes the wonder is this, that it is we that are to enjoy this happiness; we pitiful wretches are to be forever with God our Saviour—God in our nature."

Eliza E. Hewitt wrote of the child of God who could sing the wondrous love of Jesus especially of His mercy and His grace:

When we all get to heaven  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory.

[Ron Rumburg has been a much esteemed and beloved Brother for nearly forty years. This was written as a tribute to his brother who is suffering from cancer. He chose to share it with others and for good reason. It certainly touched my heart as I pray it will yours. *bhs*