

True Christian living in the world -- ("Golden Thoughts" 1879)

"Do not love the world, or anything in the world!" 1 John 2:15

True Christian living in the world, is like a ship sailing on the ocean. It is not the ship being in the water which will sink it--but the water getting into the ship! So, in like manner, the Christian is not ruined by living in the world, which he must do while he remains in the body--but by the world living in him.

The world in the heart has ruined millions of immortal souls!

How careful is the mariner to guard against leakage, lest the water entering into the vessel should, by imperceptible degrees, cause the vessel to sink; and ought not the Christian to watch and pray, lest Satan and the world should find some unguarded inlet to his heart?

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Proverbs 4:23. *Anonymous*



### 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. 92. What does God require of us, that we may escape His wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

(Acts 20:21; Acts 16:30-31; 17:30)

Q. 93. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the Gospel.

(Heb. 10:39; John 1:12; Phil. 3-9; Gal. 2:15-16)

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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 KING'S HEART

*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. Proverbs 21:1*

As we consider this creation, the heavens and the earth, we are amazed that many attribute their existence to a chance occurrence that took place in some far distant past. The tiniest of details and the vastness of the universe are all in harmony in a most efficient way. It is a stretch for the imagination to believe that matter came from nothing. It is a further stretch to believe that life as we know it came forth out of this chaos. But, the imagination is stretched even farther as we think of the millions of things that must have developed at just the right times so that the whole world system is as it is now. We who know the Lord claim faith and it is in a person. The faith that arrives at evolution is blind to say the very least. Not only do we believe that God created the heavens and the earth and all that in them is, we know that He controls every part of it and makes it work to the good of His people and His own glory. He did not need billions of years to speak into existence a working creation that was complete and functional in every regard.

Even now men look to the day-to-day occurrences in life and think they come because of chance. So they look with uncertainty to the future or labor at trying to control circumstances they believe will alter the course of history. And so, the politicians promise and the people either “point with pride” or “view with alarm” their promises and proposals. In all of their doing they only invoke the help of God to do what they have determined to do. This simple text from the pen of the wise man puts it

all in perspective. We are reminded of another proverb that says, *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. Proverbs 16:9.* To the child of God this is a great comfort. To proud man it is quite offensive. It is obvious that in many there is no thought of God and therefore such things as this are of no consequence. Others simply view God as playing a lesser role in carrying out their own designs.

The picture here of rivers is alluding to the process of irrigation. A farmer diverts a stream in such a way as to put the water where it is most needed. This was often done with an array of canals and gates that would let him direct the water in the desired way. He did not make the water happen nor did he generate the force of the water. He just directed it. This is the picture of the Lord turning the hearts of men to serve His purpose. He chose the most powerful men and moved them as He willed. He did not change their hearts, He directed them. So it was with Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar and others. God did not constrain these men to sin. But, even their sin was so directed that the purpose of God was realized. The same thing is true with the hearts of good men such as David and Solomon and the righteousness of God was vindicated. How wonderful to note that the Lord acts in such a manner that: *Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain. Psalms 76:10.* Did this mean that evil men were praising God – not at all? It did mean that their actions served to affect the lives of those who would praise Him. *For God*

*hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. Revelation 17:17.*

In these things we see something of the workings of Divine providence. God so orders things so that His purpose – ultimately the salvation of His people through Christ – might be fulfilled. Was it by chance that Jesus wound up at Jerusalem to be taken and crucified? *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Acts 2:23.* In taking the Lord by wicked hands they fulfilled the purpose of God. Christ told the twelve in advance that these things would happen. That was not a prediction. It was a declaration of what must be done in redemption. God did not make those wicked rulers crucify Christ. He put things in the way so that the dictates of their heart would be channeled to do as He willed.

There is a vast contrast as to the hearts of those who come to know Him in true salvation.

In their case they are given a new heart. They are born again of the Spirit of God. Then their hearts are channeled to come to Christ by repentance and faith. The Lord writes His laws in their hearts and in their minds and remembers their sins no more – redeemed, as it were, by the Blood of Christ. So it is that *...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.* Furthermore Paul adds: *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31.* There are those who would be against us, but they can't. Their hearts are channeled so that the Lord's people are blessed instead.

The heathen are raging around the world and in our own land. The Lord is laughing and beholding them with derision. Psalm 1:4. Their hearts are in His hand to do with them as He wills. And so He declares, *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. Psalms 2:6.* He makes them to serve His purpose and their wrath glorifies Him. *bhs*

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Be sure to shut the door! -- (Charles Orr, "How to Live a Holy Life")

*"But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret." Matthew 6:6*

It is as impossible to live and prosper spiritually without prayer--as it is to live and prosper physically without food. Those who enjoy a close walk with God and have power with Him--are those who pray. Natural abilities and intellect can never supply any lack in spirituality. Unless you are spiritual--you are of but little use to God; and to be spiritual--you must live much in prayer.

It is not those who are on their knees the oftenest or the longest--who do the most praying. Some may pray more real prayer in one hour--than others in two or three hours. Too many people leave the door open. Prayer that feeds the soul, must be offered with the door shut. "But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret."

God is in secret. He is hidden from the world. You can never reach God in your prayers--unless you shut out the world. Shutting the door means something more than closing the door of your literal closet. People may enter the literal closet and close the door--and yet have the world in their hearts and thoughts! Such have not closed the door, in the true sense.

Even in the public assembly you must enter your closet when you pray, and shut the door--or your prayers avail not with God. You must talk from your heart--to the heart of God.

There is a blessing in such praying; there is a joy that cannot be told. Such prayer feeds the soul upon the divine life, and lifts us into realms of holiness and happiness. Thank God for the sweet privilege of secret communion with Him.

O beloved, when you pray, enter into your closet--and be sure to shut the door!

## The Ungrateful!

"Where are the other nine?" Luke 17:17

Ten lepers had been cleansed — one only returned to give glory to God! Struck with their ingratitude, Jesus inquires, "Where are the other nine?" They had received mercy — the greatest temporal mercy they could receive. They could not be insensible of it — they must know it. They were expected to be thankful, and manifest their gratitude. But they were negligent and ungrateful, and Jesus notices their ingratitude!

The Lord will inquire after these nine healed lepers — and after every one who has received His mercy. And how many receive His mercy — who never acknowledge it! How many owe the debt of gratitude, who never attempt to pay it!

WHEN does the Lord inquire after the ungrateful? When His people present themselves at His throne, to praise Him for mercies received, and plead for the blessings they need. When they assemble in His ordinances, to celebrate His goodness, commemorate His love, adore His perfections, and enjoy His sweet presence. When His truth is falling in the street, or is vilified and spoken against. When His poor people are pinched by poverty, and need someone to relieve and comfort them. When His servants are persecuted and oppressed, and need a friend to stand by and cheer them. When His cause is low in any place, and needs to be fostered, screened, and supported. Then the Lord asks, "Where are the other nine?" Where are those who have received such great mercies at my hands? They ought to be...

*first at my throne; foremost in my house; zealous for my truth; ready to help my poor; delighted to animate my servants; and pleased to assist my cause!*

But where are the other nine?

Perhaps some of them are in the world, mixed up with the giddy multitude; devoted to pleasure, or business, and find no time, nor feel any inclination, to return to give glory to God.

Others are lulled asleep in carnal security — and imagining that they are God's favorites, they rest upon their lees, neglect Christian duties, and dishonor the worthy name whereby they are called. But they ought, if they have obtained spiritual blessings, to be in the church; devoting themselves to the Lord's glory; and using all their talents for the increase of the Redeemer's kingdom. They ought to be awake, and active, and zealous — showing forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.

But will not this inquiry be asked by and bye, when the sheep are separated from the goats — when the Lord's people are collected together — will not many be missing, whom we expected to find among them?

Ah! where will the ungrateful be then? Now they may have a name among the saints. Now they may have a place in the church. But then, they will be banished from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. Then all the ungrateful will be herded together, and be driven to darkness, damnation, and black eternal despair!

Ah! "where are the other nine?" Once they were with the saints. Once we expected to see them among the glorified. But where are they in the day of judgment?

Dear Reader, let us examine ourselves, and ask, Where am I now? Am I in Christ? There is no safety outside of Him — no salvation but by union to Him. We must be one with Christ — or we perish forever.

Where am I now? Am I in the path of duty? Am I where the Lord would have me to be?

What am I? Am I a Christian? A decided Christian? A grateful Christian? A devoted Christian?

What am I doing? Am I working for God? Walking with God? Aiming in all things at the glory of God? "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows — that shall he also reap."

Friend, let us acknowledge the mercies we have received; we are undeserving of the least of them! They flow spontaneously from the kind heart of God; they ought to be acknowledged, and our God be praised, according to what he has done for us. He requires it. He expects it. He demands it at our hands. It is just. It is reasonable. The Lord will inquire after us if we neglect it. He will send by His ministers, by His providence, or by His Spirit, and will ask, "Where are the other nine?"

by James Smith