

“Some men go to God and ask only for temporal favors and, possibly, they do not obtain them. He who would be content with this world will probably never get it—but he who craves spiritual good may ask with the absolute certainty of receiving it!” Charles 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. 98. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effectual means of salvation?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them or in him that administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

(1 Peter 3:21; 1 Cor. 3:6-7; 1 Cor. 12:13)

Q. 99. Wherein do Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ from the other ordinances of God?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ from the other ordinances of God in that they were specially instituted by Christ to represent and apply to believers the benefits of the new covenant by visible and outward signs.

(Matt. 28:19; Acts 22:16; Matt. 26:26-28; Rom. 6:4)

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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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EXTREME PRAYING

Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence! Isaiah 64:1-2

In times of decline and the trials that come as a result, God's faithful have longed for the conquering presence of God. They want more than mere personal comfort. Such times were, of old, characterized by lack of devotion and interest among the Lord's people and a confident boldness among the enemies of God. Even now the enemy is flexing his muscles and making bold assertions and threats as did Goliath before the Hebrew Army. It is at such times that the lament is heard, *Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. Psalms 12:1*. The Lord has never given His victory to massive armies nor has lacked for one to stand forth and claim the victory in His name. Such was the case of such men as Gideon and David. Was it because these men possessed great ability and courage? Or was it simply the fact that God was being dishonored and they were greatly offended by it. Neither of these would have dared to move against such forces were it not for the confidence that God was with them in principle and in fact.

God's people err greatly in two ways in the face of an enemy that shows contempt for God, for His Son and for the ability that God has shown in the past. The first is that they simply yield and become accepting of wicked ways, wicked governments and wicked people in general. They concede that it must be the will of God and they do nothing but lament that it is so.

The second thing they do is devise their own remedies. They initiate crusades, stage protests and develop new programs with the hope of winning the world over to their way. The missing piece in these things is God. He does not and will not be adapted into the devices of men. His way has been clearly set forth in His Word. We are given such mandates as, *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14*. Paul did not direct Timothy to come up with progressive programs to build the Church. Rather it was, *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:2*. It is that Word that when preached with power is effectual in changing the lives of men and courses of nations. That power is not something that God has delegated to men. It is manifested in the presence of God, through Christ and by the Holy Spirit. Men theorize and philosophize about the Word of God, but it is not merely learned, it (or perhaps we should say He) is experienced.

A fallen and undone world will never be conquered by reason. They either doubt the existence of God or pervert His teaching to suit themselves and world religions are born. Consider again, *There is none that*

understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. Romans 3:11. The devices of men are helpless against such a condition. What is the answer? The prophet Isaiah knew the answer and that is what he prayed for. He did not pray for a "slight healing of his people." What he asked was extreme. He had preached to an unbelieving generation and sensed that only extreme measures would avail anything. He asked for nothing less than the very presence of God. He knew that the enemies of the Lord and His people had fallen before Him in the past and believed that it would happen again. He wanted the presence of the Lord with all the attendant consequences. He would have the mountains (vain imaginations, presumptive arrogance and all that opposes God and His righteousness) to melt down and be leveled. Isaiah was offended at such contempt for His Lord and desired that at the last all His enemies would be felled before His presence. Can we pray that God would come in such a manner as this? Is there anything left but this? Men cower and falter at the mention of God's justice. God's people rejoice at the prospect of full justice being done. God is Holy! God's justice must be fully carried out now. Such a visitation as Isaiah prayed for upon the nations must come upon all. The world scoffs and

questions: *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 2 Peter 3:4.* The longsuffering of God is to the unbeliever a sign of inability and weakness. To the child of God it is salvation. The outpouring of the wrath of God reserved for the ungodly fell on Christ in the behalf of all true believers. This is the assurance that judgment must be carried out and justice will be fully satisfied. When, indeed, the Lord comes into the heart of an individual, all the mountains of pride, independence and self-determination melt. Repentance becomes the order of the day and there is full submission to the provision that God has made in Christ. Such a one has obtained mercy!

So is our hope for this present world. Only the presence of God, in full display of His power will bring the rule of righteousness to bear. We must ask, are we willing to pray for such extreme measures to be visited upon the kingdoms of this world including our own nation? The salvation of sinners and the manner of His visitation upon them is extreme. We pray for their destruction that they might know life in Christ. *bhs*

Living a Holy Life -- by Charles R. Swindoll

Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. Leviticus 11:44

As Christians we live a life that is different---morally excellent, ethically beautiful. It's called a holy life. And God honors that. Because it's like He is. . . .

All of our Christian lives we have sung the old hymn "Take Time to Be Holy." Those words are true. It does take time to be holy. It certainly takes time to be mature.

It takes time to cultivate a walk with the Lord that begins to flow naturally because the enemy is so much more assertive and powerful than we . . . and so creative, so full of new ideas on how to derail us and demoralize us.

We need to lock onto the power that comes from God's presence and invite Him to cleanse our thoughts, to correct our foul speech, to forgive us completely, and make us holy vessels, who, like the winged seraphim, spend our days bringing glory to His holy name.

OUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO PREACH AND TO HEAR THE GOSPEL

After preaching recently in a certain city, the pastor in that place showed to me a picture taken of congregants who heard me preach there on a previous occasion some years ago. He pointed to a certain person in the picture, identified that one as not professing Christ when the picture was taken, and said that one perished in a storm a few hours after hearing me preach. He declared that I had to that perishing soul declared the gospel of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for he yet remembered the Scripture expounded and the message preached. But to the best of his knowledge, that one perished as an unbeliever, having heard of Christ but not coming to Him for salvation.

Two grave facts arose in my mind. First, I preached to one who perished a few hours afterward. Second, that one perished a few hours after hearing me preach.

Regarding the first fact: What does a preacher preach to a soul about to hear preaching for the last time and afterward die? The same thing he preaches every other opportunity to preach – for he realizes on every such occasion that some hearer may hear preaching for the last time and afterward die. The preacher will preach religion and morality if he is concerned for your body, your earthly life, your acceptance to his sect, and your happiness on this earth. But if the preacher is concerned for your soul, your everlasting life, your acceptance to God, and your happiness forevermore, he will preach Christ and His gospel.

Regarding the second fact: Do you realize that you may die without an opportunity to hear the gospel again? Do not perish outside Christ, an unbeliever in Him. "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 4:7). "Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6f).

– Daniel E. Parks



Quotes from J. C. Ryle

"If you want to warm a church, put a stove in the pulpit."

"The children of God all have a cross to bear. A suffering Savior generally has suffering disciples."

"Fear not because your prayer is stammering, your words feeble, and your language poor. Jesus can understand you."

"True repentance begins with KNOWLEDGE of sin. It goes on to work SORROW for sin. It leads to CONFESSION of sin before God. It shows itself before a person by a thorough BREAKING OFF from sin. It results in producing a DEEP HATRED for all sin."

"To be born again is to enter into a new existence, to have a new mind, a new heart, new views, new principles, new tastes, new affections, new likings, new dislikings, new fears, new joys, new sorrows, new love to things once hated, new hatred to things once loved, new thoughts of God, ourselves, the world, the life to come and salvation."

"I am convinced that the first step towards attaining a higher standard of holiness is to realize more fully the amazing sinfulness of sin."