

"If your life is unholy, then your heart is unchanged, and you are an unsaved person. The Savior will sanctify His people, renew them, give them a hatred of sin, and a love of holiness. The grace that does not make a man better than others is aworthless counterfeit. Christ saves His people, not IN their sins, but FROM their sins. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord." - 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. 100. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is an holy ordinance, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, signifies our ingrafting into Christ and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

(Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27)

Q. 101. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ; and to none other.

(Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:6; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12-36; Acts 10:47-48)

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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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GROWTH OF THE WORD OF GOD

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Acts 19:20

We read of an alarming observation in the time of Samuel's childhood: And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. *And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. 1 Samuel 3:1.* This did not mean that the Word of God did not exist. But, this thought coupled with the fact that there was no open vision suggests dire circumstances. There were no prophets or priests who were preaching the Word of God and there was no power forthcoming from the Lord. The idea then of precious indicates that exposure to the Word of God was scarce and much to be desired by those who truly loved the Lord. Such a condition has often been noted in the Scripture. In times of moral decline and shallow religion there is a conspicuous absence of preaching and interest in the Word of God. Perhaps we should examine present circumstances in the light of these things.

There are other instances in the Scripture in which the emphasis on the Word is evident. Such is the case in this text. The reference here is to the ministry of Paul at Ephesus. Miraculous things had been witnessed to be sure. But, we note that Paul faithfully taught the Word of God for the space of two years “daily in the school of one Tyrannus.” Devilish interlopers had been rebuffed by a demon and the people knew of it. This all gave credibility to Paul and especially to the Word he preached. A true revival broke out. People openly confessed their sins and separated themselves from idolatry. Thus, we come to our text and note that the effect was

from and in conjunction with growth of the Word of God. How different this is from what we often witness today. Methods and human devices are employed to promote religion and church growth. In such emphasis the Word of God is relegated to a lesser role of importance. Anything from “watering down” to outright perversion takes place. There is a fear of presenting anything that might offend. The result is popularity of human ideas in the absence of true “repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.” See Acts 20:21. In the meantime immorality and general ungodliness prospers.

True and positive movement in the faith never occurs apart from the Word of God. God's people, while certainly seeking to spread the Gospel and to see the conversion of souls, have never advocated abandoning or softening the Word of God. Faithfulness to the pure and unadulterated Word of God has always taken precedence over mere numbers. And, we have precious testimony, such as this passage, that the growth of the Word is the most desirable thing. When the Word grows the knowledge of Christ grows. After all, He is the “Word made flesh.” Gospel principles prevail. The forces of evil are rattled. Mock religion had no power against the forces of evil (see Acts 19:13-16). But, the growth of the Word does have such power to both save and to rebuff.

We are assured elsewhere in the Scripture that it is the Word of God that will accomplish His purpose. *So shall my word be that goeth*

forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11. We learn that the Word of God is effective. *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12.* The devotion of the Apostles early on saw great results. *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7.* Are we intimidated by the bluster of the ungodly and defiant crowd that would legislate against the will of God? May we be reminded that God is able to take them down as in the case of Herod who dared to withstand God: *And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. But the word of God grew and multiplied. Acts 12:23-24.* When all else has faded and been dispatched it is the Word that shall still stand.

As we ponder the sad state of affairs in our nation and the lack of true Godly fervor perhaps

we should wonder at the effects of divine judgment. The evidences of the absence of divine influence are obvious. There is both immorality and rebellion. Is it as Paul declared: *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Romans 1:28.* The warning is set forth by the Old Testament prophet: *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: Amos 8:11.* Must not our prayer be: "O that the Word of God would grow mightily and prevail?" Only then will men be turned to repentance and faith and will the Gospel be believed and embraced.

The Psalmist of old knew the value of the Word of God and to him it was precious. *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalms 119:11.* The determination of the Apostles and early disciples was that the Word of God be honored. And, in the midst of trial and persecution they witnessed the greatest growth in history and it was because the Word of God grew and prevailed. *bhs*

SALVATION IS WHOLLY OF GRACE AND OF THE LORD, AND FREE

Salvation is wholly of grace; not only undeserved, but undesired by us, till God is pleased to awaken us to a sense of our need of it. And then we find everything prepared that our needs require, or our wishes can conceive; yea, that God has done exceedingly beyond what we could either ask or think.

Salvation is wholly of the Lord, and bears us signatures of infinite wisdom, power, and goodness, which distinguish all His works from the puny imitations of men. It is every way worthy of God, a great, a free, a full, a sure salvation. It is great, whether we consider the objects, miserable and hell deserving sinners; the end, the restoration of such alienated creatures to his image and favor, to immortal life and happiness; or the means, the incarnation, humiliation, sufferings, and death of his beloved Son.

Salvation is free, without exception of persons or cases, without any conditions or qualifications, but such as He himself performs in them, and bestows upon them.
– *John Newton (1725-1807), author of hymn Amazing Grace! Quoted by Daniel Parks*

...from Desiring God's Daily Devotional

Even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” (Ephesians 2:5)

What missionary has not looked on his work and said, “It’s impossible!?” To which Jesus agrees, “Yes, with man it is impossible.” No mere human being can liberate another human being from the enslaving power of the love of money.

The rich young ruler went away sorrowful because the bondage to things cannot be broken by man. With man it is impossible! And therefore missionary work, which is simply liberating the human heart from bondage to allegiances other than Christ, is impossible—with men!

If God were not in charge in this affair, doing the humanly impossible, the missionary task would be hopeless. Who but God can raise the spiritually dead and give them an ear for the gospel? “Even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ” (Ephesians 2:5).

The great missionary hope is that when the gospel is preached in the power of the Holy Spirit, God Himself does what man cannot do—He creates the faith that saves. The call of God does what the call of man can’t. It raises the dead. It creates spiritual life. It is like the call of Jesus to Lazarus in the tomb, “Come forth!” (John 11:43).

We can waken someone from sleep with our call, but God’s call can summon into being things that are not (Romans 4:17). God’s call is irresistible in the sense that it can overcome all resistance. It is infallibly effective according to God’s purpose—so much so that Paul can say, “Those whom [God] called he also justified” (Romans 8:30).

In other words, God’s call is so effectual that it infallibly creates the faith through which a person is justified. All the called are justified. But none is justified without faith (Romans 5:1). So the call of God cannot fail in its intended effect. It irresistibly secures the faith that justifies.

This is what man cannot do. It is impossible. Only God can take out the heart of stone (Ezekiel 36:26). Only God can draw people to the Son (John 6:44, 65). Only God can open the heart so that it gives heed to the gospel (Acts 16:14). Only the Good Shepherd knows His sheep by name.

He calls them and they follow (John 10:3–4, 14). The sovereign grace of God, doing the humanly impossible, is the great missionary hope. John Piper

Desiring God, Multnomah Books (Colorado Springs, CO), pages 234–235



The best armor against evil lusts:

"Your word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11

David hides the word in his heart as a treasure—that he might not lose it; and as a rule—that he might not transgress against it. The law of God kept close in the heart is the best armor against evil lusts. David locks up the law of God in his heart, as in a chest or cabinet—to secure him against Satan's ambushes and assaults on the one hand, and to preserve him from sin on the other hand. Thomas Brooks 1669.