

O Lord. I have heard a good word inviting me to look away to Thee and be satisfied. My heart longs to respond, but sin has clouded my vision till I see Thee but dimly. Be pleased to cleanse me in Thine own precious blood, and make me inwardly pure, so that I may with unveiled eyes gaze upon Thee all the days of my earthly pilgrimage. Then shall I be prepared to behold Thee in full splendor in the day when Thou shalt appear to be glorified in Thy saints and admired in all them that believe. Amen.

A.W. Tozer



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. 102. Are the infants of such as are professing believers to be baptized?

A. The infants of such as are professing believers are not to be baptized; because there is neither command nor example in the Holy Scriptures, or certain consequence from them, to baptize such.

Q. 103. How is Baptism rightly administered?

A. Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Matt. 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39)

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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 EXPECTATION OF FAITH

Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us. Psalms 123:2

A wise man observed that the Bible does not give a clear definition of faith; it is rather displayed in action, (A. W. Tozer). Certainly we look to: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.* Even here we encounter two words that places it in the realm of action. The first is “hoped.” The implication is that there is a basis for hope and that we are exercised in hope. The second is the word “seen.” While it is presented as “not seen” that fact remains that the possessor of faith is trying to see and faith bears to him the evidence that answers to belief in spite of not being able to see. Faith is understood by those who possess it as that which enables the gaze to be cast upward and the expectation to be fixed on Christ. It is the means whereby service is rendered unto God: *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6.* What follows in Hebrews 11 is an account of men whose actions were directed by the Lord through faith.

The illustration of faith given in this text is apt indeed. In an age and an area where slavery is not practiced we may have difficulty relating to it. But, the Bible described people who were often enslaved of their own choice. One so submitting to another did so because they loved their masters and mistresses and wanted to serve them. In other cases the slaves were so incorporated into families as to feel identity as

well as obligation. In any event, relationships were developed that involved love and trust with both. Furthermore, such a person looked to the Master they served and loved for direction and they looked to them for provision. The picture here is of those who look for both guidance and blessing.

The Bible does not deal with slavery as a moral issue. It was a way of life in many of the places where the Gospel was taken. But the message to all was of liberty in Christ. It is hateful and immoral to us, but it was not always as it seemed. The Lord taught of the precious liberty that we know in Him. There is freedom to worship and to praise and there is freedom to serve. That seems contradictory. But, the Apostle Paul referred to himself as more than a minister. He called himself a bondsman of Christ. He knew himself to have been purchased and rejoiced that it was so. He would remind us that we are not our own but that we are “bought with a price.” And what a price it was. Two things come quickly to mind. First that Christ must have placed great value on those He came to save and deliver up. Secondly, those so delivered do not try to escape. They are bound in the chains of love and neither can escape nor do they want to leave such an existence.

The slave of Christ looks to His hand for all. There is no attempt to assert personal rights. Man seeks to dignify his sinful estate by claiming to have rights. The fact is that all rights were given up in the fall and the truth of that is

confirmed in that man continues to rebel against God and to pollute His creation. They foolishly say in their hearts that there is no God. They look to themselves as elevated above God in accordance with the aspirations of their father the devil. But such is not the case of the true believers. They look steadfastly to the One who has delivered them up. They have no personal aspirations; they rather desire only the presence of their Master. Our Lord told His disciples: "Ye call me Master and Lord and ye say well, for so I AM."

What a beautiful picture we see here. The eyes of the loving servant would not lose contact with the eyes of her mistress. She would anticipate the desire of her Master. She would wait for whatever would be provided and would never think of such as being deserved. So it is that we are told by the Psalmist that his expectation from the Lord is mercy. But, you say, the Master may bestow great blessing and reward on such a servant. The servant would see it as mercy. Such a Master might demand great service. The servant would rejoice at the

privilege of being the one given such an honor. We are reminded of those in the early Church who rejoiced that they were able to suffer for His sake.

As true believers are awakened to the nature of a life (or death) without Christ they are fearful of being cast out on their own. The world marches on to destruction. The child of God is at peace as he looks to the hand of a loving Master, receives such as they do not deserve and is brought into His presence as a dear Child. We behold such a One with wonder that He would pay such a price that we might dwell with Him forever. It is there, in His presence, that we know and experience His peace and share in His joy and engage in mutual delight at so great and glorious salvation.

Ask any true believer if he would choose independence from slavery to Christ and he would react in horror at such a thought. *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalms 27:1. bhs*

PERSONAL WITNESSING

"Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." (Mark 5:19)

I am grateful for the opportunities we have to preach the Gospel through TV and the Internet. I believe the Lord has blessed that. But those things cannot take the place of our personal witnessing, telling our friends what God has done for us, and inviting them to come and hear the Gospel. In the Book of Acts, before there was TV, radio, or Internet, the Gospel was spread throughout the world. How was it done? Through the preaching of men, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and by believers declaring the Word to whoever would listen. "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" [Acts 4:33]. If we have become negligent in this, may we repent! Where would we be if somebody did not preach the Gospel to us?

– from bulletin of Todd's Road Grace Church, Lexington, Kentucky, USA (Todd Nibert, pastor) as quoted by Daniel Parks.

"And they follow me."—John 10:27.

WE should follow our Lord as unhesitatingly as sheep follow their shepherd, for He has a right to lead us wherever He pleases. We are not our own, we are bought with a price—let us recognize the rights of the redeeming blood. The soldier follows his captain, the servant obeys his master, much more must we follow our Redeemer, to whom we are a purchased possession. We are not true to our profession of being Christians, if we question the bidding of our Leader and Commander. Submission is our duty, cavilling is our folly. Often might our Lord say to us as to Peter, "What is that to thee? Follow thou Me." Wherever Jesus may lead us, He goes before us. If we know not where we go, we know with whom we go. With such a companion, who will dread the perils of the road? The journey may be long, but His everlasting arms will carry us to the end. The presence of Jesus is the assurance of eternal salvation, because He lives, we shall live also. We should follow Christ in simplicity and faith, because the paths in which He leads us all end in glory and immortality. It is true they may not be smooth paths—they may be covered with sharp flinty trials, but they lead to the "city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant." Let us put full trust in our Leader, since we know that, come prosperity or adversity, sickness or health, popularity or contempt, His purpose shall be worked out, and that purpose shall be pure, unmingled good to every heir of mercy. We shall find it sweet to go up the bleak side of the hill with Christ; and when rain and snow blow into our faces, His dear love will make us far more blest than those who sit at home and warm their hands at the world's fire. To the top of Amana, to the dens of lions, or to the hills of leopards, we will follow our Beloved. Precious Jesus, draw us, and we will run after Thee. SPURGEON

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." ~ C.S. Lewis

Thomas Watson

The streams of glory are not like the water of a conduit, often stopped, so that we cannot have one drop of water; but those heavenly streams of joy are continually running. Oh how should we despise this valley of tears where we now are, for the mount of transfiguration! How should we long for the full enjoyment of God in Paradise! Had we a sight of that land of promise, we should need patience to be content to live here any longer. "Body of Divinity" pg. 25

Morality will keep you out of jail--but only the blood of Jesus will keep you out of Hell!

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him!" John 3:36. Charles Spurgeon