

## Majesty

Majesty beyond all telling, /Glory dwarfing ev'ry light;  
God Almighty, all-compelling, /Only perfect, only right.  
Worshipful we come before /Thee Trembling, as the creature must!  
With Thine angels we adore Thee /With our faces in the dust!

Roland Freischlad, 2009

### 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. 104. What is the duty of those who are rightly baptized?

A. It is the duty of those who are rightly baptized to give up (join) themselves to some visible and orderly church of Jesus Christ, that they may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

(Acts 2:46-47; Acts 9:26; 1 Peter 2:5; Heb. 10:25; Rom. 16:5)

Q. 105. What is the visible church?

A. The visible church is the organized society of professing believers, in all ages and places, wherein the Gospel is truly preached and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper rightly administered.

(Acts 2:42; 20:7; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-12)

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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 SOVEREIGNTY OF CHRIST

*Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Matthew 26:64*

Men in their fallen estate hate the thoughts of any exercising complete control over them. Yet, this is exactly what is understood by the sovereignty of God. Men have rebelled against this thought in general and against God personally from the time of the fall. It seems that the higher men rise in power over other men, the more resentful they become of any that might be in power over them. So it is that we often hear arrogant statements from leaders of nations that sound like their own claim to sovereignty. While they might acknowledge the existence of God, they think themselves to be independent of His control. They will pay lip service to the Bible, but they hate such passages as: *It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: Isaiah 40:22.*

So it was that Caiaphas the High Priest challenged the claim of Jesus as being the Christ. To acknowledge that would have necessitated that he bow to Christ as the Son of God and as God the Son. In spite of the fact that all that the Scripture had said regarding the Messiah had come to pass in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord this lost man refused and rebelled. The testimonies to the manifestation of perfect righteousness and holiness was realized in Christ but despised by those who went about to establish their own righteousness. They could not deny the miraculous works of Jesus but

wanted Him dead so that they might continue their reign and enslavement of the people. Even now as He had allowed Himself to be taken they could not find a charge to bring against Him, but their desire to destroy Him overruled any thought of justice and so they proceeded.

The challenge to Jesus was that He tell them plainly that He was the Christ, The Son of God. This was not set forth in order to arrive at the truth. It was rather that they might charge Him with blasphemy. Jesus could not lie and therefore answered Caiaphas that he had said it correctly. Mark relates that Jesus used the words “I AM.” And, of course, this infuriated the High Priest. The man had three years of evidence and the authoritative word of the Son of God that He was the promised Messiah and Redeemer, but it meant nothing. This man’s position of power and authority must not be challenged. And so he would proceed to crucify the Lord of Glory.

In all probability the man did not doubt that the Messiah would have the power Christ claimed here. He just did not believe that Jesus had such power. Christ refers to Himself here as the Son of Man. This remains a most precious aspect of the faith of God’s elect. Our representative before the judgment bar of God and our representative and advocate in Heaven is indeed a man. *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus... 1 Timothy 2:5.* He would humbly submit to the cross that He might deliver His people,

but He would rise in power and never more be subject to the wickedness of men. Even now our gaze is cast upward where we see Him where He said He would be – at the right hand of power and coming again.

This prophecy was soon to be realized in a number of ways. First, He spoke these words to the High Priest directly. The word for hereafter implies the same as henceforth and therefore looked to an immediate realization. Certainly, His death was imminent, but so was the resurrection. Soon to follow that would be the empowering of men to preach the Gospel and all efforts to stop it would be frustrated. The fact that the Gospel continues to be preached and is effective today is not owing to the perseverance of men – it is because of our reigning Christ. There is a second thought with regard to Christ's words to Caiaphas. This thought would apply to all who hold the thought of the sovereignty of Christ in contempt. We are not told when it happened, but we assume that this man died still in rebellion against Christ and the righteousness of God. We have every reason to believe that as he descended into the depths

of hell and eternal suffering out the sight of mercy that he saw the very One he had despised sitting on the right hand of power on high. He knew at that moment that the One he had crucified was the same One that was sending him to Hell.

This declaration of Christ to Caiaphas is most reassuring to all who truly believe. Even as we believe that He is the place of power, we are reminded that nothing is beyond His control and that all things are ordered in such a way as to result in God's glory and the good of His people. *And 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.* The writer of Hebrews reminds us that while things may not look like they are under control or that they have been put under His feet, we see Jesus. He who has deposed the God of this world has also subjected this world to Himself. Thus, we are encouraged not to despair but to be found "looking unto Jesus..." and trusting Him and His wisdom in all things. That which shall be fully realized in time is true even now: "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth." *bhs*

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"What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?" says the LORD; "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts." (Isaiah 1:11)

Our quest is not merely joy. It is joy in God. And there is no way for a creature to consciously manifest the infinite worth and beauty of God without delighting in Him.

It is better to say that we pursue our joy in God than to simply say that we pursue God. For one can pursue God in ways that do not honor Him.

Our solemn assemblies may be a stench in God's nose (Amos 5:21–24). It is possible to pursue God without glorifying God. If we want our quest to honor God, we must pursue Him for the joy in fellowship with Him.

Consider the Sabbath as an illustration of this. The Lord rebukes His people for seeking "their own" pleasure on His holy day. But what does He mean? He means they are delighting in their business and not in the beauty of their God. He does not rebuke their hedonism. He rebukes the weakness of it.

They have settled for secular interests and thus honor them above the Lord.

*If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 58:13–14)*

Notice that calling the Sabbath a delight is parallel to calling the holy day of the Lord honorable.

This simply means you honor what you delight in. Or you glorify what you enjoy. The enjoyment and the glorification of God are one. His eternal purpose and our eternal pleasure unite. To magnify His name and multiply your joy is the reason I have written this, for: The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. John Piper *Desiring God*, Multnomah Books (Colorado Springs, CO), pages 306–307



### “The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ”

Many leaders in manmade religion make themselves rich at the expense of their followers. Many of their followers deprive themselves in order that their leaders may reside in mansions, travel in luxury, dine on delicacies, dress in splendor, parade in jewelry, live in opulence.

How different is the Son of God to His followers! “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

As God He owns the wealth of the earth and the world (Psalm 24:1). In His grace to poor sinners He surrendered His wealth in heaven and became a poor servant on earth (Philippians 2:5-7). He chose to be born and raised in the home of a humble carpenter (Matthew 13:55) and to live without extravagance of any sort (Matthew 8:20).

But through His poverty He made others rich. He came not to be served by any, but rather to serve many, and to give His life as a ransom for them (Matthew 20:28). With His own blood He paid all their debt to God and purchased for them every spiritual blessing for both now and all eternity.

The King of heaven became a pauper on earth so that paupers on earth could become kings in heaven. The glorious Son of God became an impoverished Son of man so that impoverished sons of man could become glorified sons of God. He endured hunger and thirst on earth so that others could dine on the finest food and drink from heaven. He lived homeless on this earth so that others could live in a mansion in heaven. He wore the simplest garment in order that others could be clothed in the gorgeous garments of salvation.

All this and much more the Lord Jesus Christ did for all who trust in Him for the salvation of their souls. The richest of all endured self-imposed poverty so that the poorest of all could become eternally rich through His grace.

Will you through faith in the Son of God become rich through “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”? – Daniel E. Parks