

From Monergism Books:

Predestination destroys legalism. If salvation is by Christ alone, it leaves no room for boasting or trusting in ourselves, even a little. It strips us bare and forces us to abandon all hope in our efforts or rules ... man-made rules non-predestinarians tend to make to demonstrate they are more worthy than others of God's grace (an oxymoron). The Scripture declares: "It is because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1 Cor 1:30-31)



**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. 118. What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen," teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him; and in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, AMEN.

(Matt. 6:13; Dan. 9:18-19; 1 Chron. 29:11-13; 1 Cor. 14:16; Phil. 4:6; Rev. 22:20)

**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 EFFECT OF BEING WITH JESUS

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13*

The Acts of the Apostles were ever a source of wonder to friend and foe alike. The religious leaders could neither refute their message scripturally nor silence them by intimidation. Those who were hearing the Gospel from them did so with the witness of the Holy Spirit within them and so were made new creatures in Christ Jesus. True believers embraced Christ and His message while the enemy sought any means to stamp out both message and the messengers. They were left frustrated. Wherever the Gospel is proclaimed in the manner of the Apostles things and people are changed. Established religion will be exposed by their violent opposition to our Lord, His grace and His Gospel.

Following the healing of the lame man at the Temple Gate Peter disavowed any claim to doing it of himself but rather preached to them the resurrection power of Christ. For this they were jailed. The next day they were brought before the Sanhedrin, which was the supreme court of the Jews. They demanded an accounting as to their message and their authority to preach it. They could not ignore the effect since there were about five-thousand men following them. They were totally unprepared for what followed.

Instead of bowing before them or offering some defense, Peter boldly preached the same message to these elite men of religion. These were used to defensive responses on the part of those they charged. These men were rather charging them with the crucifixion of Christ with

the declaration that God had raised Him from the dead. He further declared that it was by Him (Christ) that the lame man stood before them whole.

The High Priest and his cohorts were faced with several problems. The evidence of a mighty work was standing before them made whole by the power of God through the ministry of these men. A significant crowd was gathered many of whom had witnessed the miracle. But, perhaps of greater importance was the manner and message of Peter and the Apostles. The defendants had become the prosecutors. Being filled with the Holy Ghost Peter displayed a boldness that arrested their attention. They seemed stunned and did not move to finally silence them. Theirs was the authority of men and that was no match for the power of God. They had no choice but to let them go.

What had happened here? The boldness of Peter and John was unmistakable. They were confident and were unmoved by the show of human authority. They saw a calmness and assurance that many of them had seen before in witnessing the ministry of Christ Jesus the Lord. Adding to their amazement was the fact that they knew and fully understood that these were not educated men in the ways of the Jews' religion and theology. They had no visible record of education that would prepare them to speak in this way. Yet, they were knowledgeable, articulate and assured. They were solid and consistent with their message. In trying to

understand how these “unlearned and ignorant men” could be bold another important fact came to their mind. These men had been with Jesus.

Jesus was charged with lacking credentials to teach in the manner that He did. Yet, He bested the graduates of their schools at every encounter. His wisdom defied and defeated them every time. It is true that they had succeeded in crucifying Him (delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God). But they had never successfully countered His teaching. Now these men were standing before them in the same manner and with the same message of the sovereignty of Christ and His infinite power to save and to heal. There was more here than a mere memory of them having been seen with Jesus. There was evidence of the same authority with which Jesus had confronted them. The result was that these men marveled!

What were the Apostles experiencing? This same Peter had trembled and denied our Lord when identified as one of His disciples. What made the difference here? The simple answer is that he was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8). But, Peter was not only bold, he felt bold. He had indeed been with Jesus when men had attempted to stone Him. He had been with Jesus when the authorities would have arrested Him before the time. He had been with Him when the time came to face the cross and all

that it involved. But, Peter had also been with Him following His resurrection. He knew Him to be the victor over death, hell and the grave. Thus, he knew that these men had no weapon that could succeed against him. So, he did not hesitate to set before us a model for preaching. He did not look to be “politically correct” when he charged them with crucifying the Lord. He did not mince words when he declared the fact and necessity of the resurrection of Christ. He brought the Scripture to bear in declaring Christ to be the “Stone which the builders rejected.” Peter would have had them to believe the Gospel as well.

Should we not look for the same today? Have we not been with Jesus? Such is the case with all who are brought by His grace to repentance and faith. Being with Jesus, makes for such boldness as these men had. Being with Jesus teaches us humility for He is meek and lowly in heart. Being with Jesus brings us “His Peace.” Being with Jesus is hope –“Christ in you the hope of glory.” Being with Jesus gives assurance in that He promised never to leave us (His redeemed ones). The world and its governments would relegate the people of God to a place of insignificance. But, we have both example and precept that we are to boldly declare Christ and His Gospel as the exclusive means to salvation. *bhs*

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"God is originally good, good of Himself, which nothing else is; for all creatures are good only by participation and communication from God. He is essentially good; not only good, but goodness itself: the creature's good is a superadded quality, in God it is His essence. He is infinitely good; the creature's good is but a drop, but in God there is an infinite ocean or gathering together of good. He is eternally and immutably good, for He cannot be less good than He is; as there can be no addition made to Him, so no subtraction from Him." - Thomas Manton

*"If the gospel were more faithfully preached, there would be fewer people professing to believe it."- A.W. Pink*

*Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? Isaiah 53:1*

## Let No Evil Remain

*And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and show thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers. (Deuteronomy 13:17)*

Israel must conquer idolatrous cities and destroy all the spoil, regarding all that had been polluted by idolatry as an accursed thing to be burned with fire. Now, sin of all sorts must be treated by Christians in the same manner. We must not allow a single evil habit to remain. It is now war to the knife with sins of all sorts and sizes, whether of the body, the mind, or the spirit. We do not look upon this giving up of evil as deserving mercy, but we regard it as a fruit of the grace of God, which we would on no account miss.

When God causes us to have no mercy on our sins, then He has great mercy on us. When we are angry with evil, God is no more angry with us. When we multiply our efforts against iniquity, the Lord multiplies our blessings. The way of peace, of growth, of safety, of joy in Christ Jesus will be found by following out these words: "There shall nought of the cursed thing cleave to thine hand." Lord, purify me this day. Compassion, prosperity, increase, and joy will surely be given to those who put away sin with solemn resolution. Spurgeon from Faith's Checkbook.

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## Simply Believe

Now, the faith that receives Christ is the most direct, simple, and saving exercise of this marvelous grace, and the most lovely and precious exhibition of this fruit. To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, is everything to the soul. An eternity of bliss is involved in it. Believe in Christ, and the treasures of heaven are swept into your bosom. Believe in Christ, and a present salvation is yours. Believe in Christ, and the hope of glory dawns upon your soul. Believe in Christ, and you are linked with the bliss of eternity.

You have nothing to do, only to BELIEVE. Away with conditions—away with reasonings—away with questionings—and immediately, simply, only BELIEVE that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and you are SAVED! It is when faith in Christ is simple that it is strong; when its hand is empty that it is full; when it comes in its deepest poverty that it is rich; and when it is the most weak in created dependencies that it is the strongest in God. See, then, that you bear this fruit of righteousness, and so evidence your new creation. Have faith in God—in His word of promise, in His infinite power, in His immutable faithfulness.

Take Him at His word, and though He slays you, yet trust in Him. Be your faith that before whose far-seeing eye the present pales, the future brightens; which diminishes the present things of trial, and suffering, and need, and magnifies the future things of happiness, fruition, and glory. Be your faith that which purifies the heart, which works by love, which walks humbly with God, which lies securely and peacefully at anchor upon the promise in the storm, which reposes quietly in the very bosom of Him whose chastening hand has smitten you. O glorious fruit of righteousness! Lord, let Your sun warm, let Your springs water, let Your hand prune my soul, that I may be filled with this precious fruit of faith, to the greater honor and glory of Your holy name!

Octavius Winslow