

The Bible declares that sinners are helpless and lost ... not in need of help, but of rescue. While all other religions teach what a man must do to help himself attain salvation, Christianity declares that man is beyond being able to respond to commands or help. We need a Savior, not someone to help us save ourselves. So a Christian is not made first by someone who follows Jesus' life and example. That is an impossible standard for the natural man. No ... There would be no need for rescue unless a person was lost and completely helpless. When someone has swallowed water, is unconscious and floating to the bottom of the ocean drowning, you do not first ask him if he wants rescuing. That would not be helpful and a waste of precious seconds. No, without asking you jump in a rescue them. Spiritually we are helpless and lost, so Jesus does likewise. Before he is our teacher, he is our rescuer, our Savior. That is our primary need. From Monergism Books



GADSBY'S CATECHISM – William Gadsby about 1800

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Question VII. Are there more Gods than one?

Answer. There is but one only living and true God.

Deut. 6.4; Isa. 45.5-6, 21-22; 1 Tim. 2.5.

Question VIII. How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

Answer. There are three Persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and these Three are One, the same in essence, and equal in power and glory.

Matt. 3.16-17 & 12.31-32 & 28. 19; Jn. 5.23 & 15.26; 2 Cor. 13.14; 1 Jn. 5.7.

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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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OUR APPROACHING SALVATION

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. Romans 13:11

I remember hearing a beloved uncle pray at meals and always end his prayer with “and save us at last for Jesus sake.” Of course, what bothered me was that I had been taught and believed and still do believe that salvation is of the Lord. That is, it had been decreed from all eternity. It had been purchased in time by Christ our Lord. It had been certified in His resurrection. Acceptance has been confirmed by His ascension back into Heaven. Salvation was applied to the hearts of those who call upon Him by the Holy Spirit in regeneration (not that they call upon the Lord for regeneration, but because of regeneration they call upon Him). Thus, it would seem that then they are exercised in “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ,” salvation is complete. Such people can properly declare themselves to be saved by the grace of God. These things I most certainly believe to be true.

At some point in time later I think I came to understand the thought of my uncle. It was not that he believed that he was not saved at that point in time, but that in the Lord’s plan so much remained to be realized as a result of salvation. We are not yet in Heaven with the Lord and completely free of the things of this present evil world. That which is yet to come sparks great joy and anticipation in the heart of every true believer. They believe that the last tense of salvation awaits them – deliverance from the very presence of sin. They know themselves to be justified by the blood of Christ

and have by faith apprehended justification to themselves. They experience the reality of eternal life in Christ in their very souls. They have been sanctified by the Holy Spirit; and this by no mere ceremony but by the miracle of the New Birth. The life they live in the flesh is lived by the faith of the Son of God. They know that they have eternal life because they believe on the Name of the Son of God. But, there is more to come.

The Apostle encourages us to action based on just such an expectation. People often become very excited at the approaching of some desired event. Preparations are excitingly made for a vacation trip and little children arise early on their birthday to see what presents they have received. Paul is suggesting that it just may be that we are less excited about what awaits us at the end of our earthly sojourn. Shall we sit down and wait for the inevitable? Shall we approach our expectations with apathy and indifference? Shall we look fatalistically and merely go about the routine business of the day? Or shall we be moving with excitement in seeking to do the will of the One we know to be coming. The figure is clear. It is unseemly, to say the very least, that we could sleep when the expectation of the Lord was that His people should be found to be about the business of the Gospel. We have instruction, commandment and example as to what we are to do. In the case of our Lord we read, *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour*

was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. John 13:1.

It has been well said that from the moment we are born we begin moving toward the day of our death. Christ has reversed the order of things. From the time of our New Birth we set out upon an Eternal lifetime. The times are difficult and sometimes seem long, but they are moving surely toward the time of our being forever with the Lord. Our salvation is nearer than when we believed – it is closer now than ever before. It was not from the time of our natural birth. It was not from the time of our baptism. It was not from the time of our joining a church. It begins to be measured from the time we believed. With true belief in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior comes a desire to be with Him always. It is of His plan and purpose that we should serve a time here on earth. He has promised never to leave or forsake those who trust Him for their salvation. But, salvation will be complete when we are found in the presence of the Lord. There shall we know liberty from all that has hindered for so long and we shall be able to engage fully and with infinite

joy and bliss in the worship and praise of Him who alone is worthy.

There is no doubt that the work of Grace begun in the hearts of true believers will be brought to a glorious consummation. ...*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6.* But, are we indifferent to those who have not come to saving knowledge of Christ. We are to preach the Gospel to every creature. It is hard to imagine that we would do so without a view to those things forever settled at His appearing. As one comes near the end of a journey he does not stop driving. It is more likely that the driving will become more intense and focused on arriving at the appointed place and time. As we see the day approaching how much more should our focus be on exhorting one another. Hebrews 10:25.

The scoffers ridicule the idea of His soon appearing since it has been such a long time since He ascended back to glory. But, God is longsuffering to usward. Thus, may this thought guide us and energize us that "...now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." *bhs*

Trials and Pain: Ordered By the Lord

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand. -Psalm 37:23-24

To the child of God, there is no such thing as accident. He travels an appointed way. The path he treads was chosen for him when as yet he was not, when as yet he had existence only in the mind of God.

Accidents may indeed appear to befall him and misfortune stalk his way; but these evils will be so in appearance only and will seem evils only because we cannot read the secret script of God's hidden providence and so cannot discover the ends at which He aims....

The man of true faith may live in the absolute assurance that his steps are ordered by the Lord. For him, misfortune is outside the bounds of possibility. He cannot be torn from this earth one hour ahead of the time which God has appointed, and he cannot be detained on earth one moment after God is done with him here. He is not a waif of the wide world, a foundling of time and space, but a saint of the Lord and the darling of His particular care. *We Travel an Appointed Way*, pp. 3-4

"I worship and praise You this morning for this: 'the absolute assurance that his steps are ordered by the Lord.' And for the fact that 'misfortune is outside the bounds of possibility.' What a privilege to be 'a darling of His particular care.' Wow! Amen." Tozer

For those who love God, all things work unto good, for those called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

We seldom know the micro reasons for our sufferings, but the Bible does give us faith-sustaining macro reasons.

It is good to have a way to remember some of these so that when we are suddenly afflicted, or have a chance to help others in their affliction, we can recall some of the truths God has given us to help us not lose hope.

Here is one way to remember: 5 R's (or if it helps, just pick three and try to remember them).

The macro purposes of God in our sufferings include:

Repentance: Suffering is a call for us and others to turn from treasuring anything on earth above God. Luke 13:4–5: . . . Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Reliance: Suffering is a call to trust God and not the life-sustaining props of the world. 2 Corinthians 1:8–9:

We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

Righteousness: Suffering is the discipline of our loving heavenly Father so that we come to share his holiness. Hebrews 12:6, 10–11:

The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. . . . He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Reward: Suffering is working for us a great reward in heaven that will make up for every loss here a thousand-fold. 2 Corinthians 4:17:

This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

Reminder: Suffering reminds us that God sent his Son into the world to suffer so that our suffering would not be God's condemnation but his purification. Philippians 3:10: . . . that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings.

John Piper "Preparing for Sudden Suffering"

But for Thy free grace, we'd perished in sin,
For ever in hell, with devils have been;
The glory is Thine, and ever shall be,
For loving, redeeming and setting us free.
(William Gadsby)