

"Christ was made sin, really made sin; not in His nature, for He was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners; but he was made sin in covenant contract, as the Head and Representative of His people. Poor tempted child of God, poor believer, thy blindness, thy hardness, thy pride, thy lust, thy unbelief, and the plague of thy heart, were all imputed to Christ; he bore the blame, and put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. When we are brought in faith feelingly to receive the atonement, to enter into the atonement, and rely on it, we shut the door of atoning blood about us; and there is not a devil in hell or man on earth can bring us in guilty."

(William Gadsby)



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 IX. Can God be frustrated in His purposes and designs?

Answer. No, for He works all things after the counsel of His own will, and will do all His pleasure. Job 23.13; Isa. 43.13 & 46.10; Matt. 28.18; Eph. 1.11-12.

Question X. What are the decrees of God?

Answer. The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for His own glory, He has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Isa. 46.10; Rom. 8.28-30 & 9.6-24; Eph. 1.11-12; 2 Thess. 2.13-14.

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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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SOMEONE GOD LOVES

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

The degree of attachment one has to material things says much concerning their enjoyment of life. To many the attachment is so strong as to be a form of bondage. They are so intent on securing their possessions and their money that losing any of it brings grief. Yet, in the end they are able to keep none of it. The misery of such people is compounded in the observation of our Lord who declared: *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21.* Any joy they have is fleeting and gone with the using. True liberty is enjoyed when you have nothing to lose.

The issue of giving is addressed with just such a reference in the scripture. When the rich young man was told that he lacked one thing; that being that he should give all his goods to the poor and follow Christ he was finished and chose possessions over salvation. Joyful giving has been a characteristic of the Lord's people down through the centuries. The children of Israel were told that all who were of a willing heart should bring gifts for building the Tabernacle. David rejoiced and gave thanks at the privilege of giving. *But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 1 Chronicles 29:14.* This is worth examining. David's thanksgiving was not in the materials but the willingness of both he and his people. There was no pride here. He acknowledged the Lord as the source of it all and declared that

they had given Him that which was His to begin with. He had no feelings of having done some great deed. It was rather that he had been allowed to express a true willingness before the Lord.

Many have missed the true issue and thus the true joy in giving by adhering to a legalistic approach to something that should come of grace alone. Under the Mosaic Law it was declared that the tithe (tenth) belonged to the Lord. The method of many today is to take out what they need and what they want and if there is anything left over they give it to the Lord. Under the Law, the Lord's portion came of the firstfruits and the remainder was for their use. The important issue in all this was the recognition that it all belongs to the Lord. This is a special and blessed realization with believers. The question Paul posed to the Corinthians was: *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? 1 Corinthians 4:7.* A wise man observed that grace never came behind law in anything. Anything the Law demands grace provides.

If, as the word declares, that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver does that mean He does not love one who is not a cheerful giver? That would be a strong assertion. But, the thought here is certainly tied to the joy of believers. The reference here is to: *He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to*

the poor. Proverbs 22:9. The word here is “blessed” in comparison to cheerful. But, the connection is clear. The word “love” here is the same as that used often by the Lord in speaking of His love for His own. The thought here seems to imply expression of that love to such a person. Perhaps it even looks to a person’s sense of being loved by the Lord. Salvation is neither earned nor kept by “cheerful giving,” but it is powerful evidence of salvation and of assurance to true believers.

The scriptures describe to us the joy of the Lord in bringing salvation to His people. *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32.* Even the anticipation of the cross did not take away the Lord’s delight in bringing salvation. *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2.* Such is the nature and expression of His love to us. What a great joy it is to know that all we have is out of His love for us. There is no joy in laying claim to all for ourselves and then thinking of the Lord as a charity. True

Christian giving is an act of worship, of devotion and of thanksgiving. The love of God to a cheerful giver is seen thusly: “Cheerful giving is born of love, and therefore it is a lover loving a lover and rejoicing in the communion. Giving is the language of loving; indeed, it has no other speech. “God so loved that He gave!” Love finds its very life in giving itself away. Its only pride in possession is the joy of surrender. If love has all things, it yet possesses nothing.” J. H. Jowett.

Paul declares that such action is purposed in the heart. If ours is a regenerated heart how can we do anything but delight at the privilege? It is planned in the heart which delights in the Lord above all else.

The Lord is not a beggar. He is not as we are. He has need of nothing. *If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Psalms 50:12.* But we need to bring of all that He had provided us. We are indeed bought with a price. Christ gave all. Nothing was kept in reserve as He went to the cross. We would joyfully respond to all He has done and thus experience the love of God to us.
bhs

The memory

(Arthur Pink, "Forgetting" 1950)

What a wonderful thing is the memory--one of the many precious faculties with which the Creator has endowed us. By it we are enabled . . . to live the past over again in our minds, to revive the early experiences of childhood, to recall the words of those who are no longer with us.

By it, we may review the Lord's dealings with us in grace and in providence, call back to mind His interventions on our behalf, delivering us when in straits--or rejoicing our hearts while He talked with us along the way. By it, we can turn over the pages of our chequered lives, and read what is recorded both for and against us.

Memory is the power of retention, the storehouse in which all our knowledge is preserved. It is not possible to assess its value in silver and gold. How much poorer would we be--if everything were erased from its tablets! One of the greatest tragedies of life, is for a person to lose his mind and memory. It is indeed hard to part with any faculty, but, if compelled to make the choice, probably most of us would rather be deprived of our limbs, our hearing, or even our sight, than our mentality--yet

comparatively few cultivate and use it as they should.

The memory is indeed of vast importance, for it is the treasurer of the soul. What the understanding takes in--the memory stores up. Knowledge, intellectual growth, social fellowship, the spiritual life--all have their roots in this faculty of retention. But this invaluable gift, like all others, entails a corresponding obligation. Each talent that God has bestowed upon us is for use--and if it is not employed, it will deteriorate. As unexercised limbs become stiff, and muscles flabby--so an unused memory becomes enfeebled. The memory may be developed and controlled--though time and trouble are required for this, as for everything else of worth.

Memory is largely a matter of volition. Said the Psalmist, "I will not forget your word" (119:16). Definiteness of purpose is required, whether we shall recall a thing or dismiss it from our minds. Remembering is a setting of knowledge to work, reviewing the notions and impressions we have received, by exercising our thoughts about and meditating upon them.

The seat of the memory is the heart. Of Mary it is said, that she kept all these things "in her heart" (Luke 2:19, 51)--things kept there, are never lost.

This leads us to point out that there is both a notional or speculative remembering--and a practical or influential one. The former is where we barely think of things--and receive no profit or benefit from them. The latter is where the mind is so engaged with the object recalled--that the affections are fired and the will moved by it. Thus the faculty of memory is given us by God as a means unto an end--to be a help in promoting piety.

The Scriptures abound with exhortations to remembrance. At the fore of them, we would place that one where those of tender years are bidden, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Bear in mind that, since He is your Maker, He is therefore your rightful Lord and Owner--so conduct toward Him as such, rendering unto Him the homage and honor that are His due. Meditate much upon His glorious perfections; call Him to mind constantly while your heart is yet impressionable, and habits for good or evil are being formed for life; and thereby you will be fortified against the temptations of youth. All of men's wickedness and misery comes through forgetting God, hence the warning, "Beware that you forget not the LORD your God!" (Deuteronomy 8:11).

Three looks at Jesus!

Reader, remember these three looks at Jesus: backward, upward, forward; and make use of them every day.

The first is the secret of peace of conscience: no peace unless we look backward at the cross of Christ!

The second is the secret of real daily strength and comfort in our walk with God: little solid comfort unless we look upward to Christ's intercession!

The third is the secret of bright and cheerful hope in a dark world: no bright prospect unless we look forward to Christ coming again!

Backward, upward, forward--these are the three ways in which we should look at Jesus.

The person that looks at the cross is a wise person; the person that looks at the cross and the intercession also, is wiser still; but those who look at all three, the cross, the intercession, and the coming of Jesus--they are wisest of all.

(J.C. Ryle)