

"What a vast difference there is between talking of the power and glory of God, when we solemnly feel our standing there, and talking about it without a feeling enjoyment of it! The latter appears like the chattering of a prating fool, and the former like the free flow of the golden oil from the two anointed ones (Zech. 4:11-14). But alas, alas! How often I stand, in my own feelings, like the prating fool! Yet, through the matchless riches of God's grace, I at times feel a sweet flow of the divine oil into my own soul, and then preaching the glorious gospel of the blessed God is a most blessed work." (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 XXV. What is meant by a covenant of grace?

Answer. The covenant engagement entered into, in the counsels of eternity, by the Triune God in behalf of the elect; in which covenant the elect were given to the Person of the Son, and made His care and charge, and all spiritual blessings were treasured up and secured in Him, and so made sure to all the seed of promise.

2 Sam. 23.5; Psa. 89.27-37; Isa. 55.3; Hos. 2. 23; Jn. 17.2; Heb. 2.13 & 8.10.

Question XXVI. On whom did the conditions of the covenant fall?

Answer. The Second Person in the Trinity, who, knowing the elect would destroy themselves by sin, engaged to be accountable for them, and to take all the consequences connected therewith upon Himself, and in His own time to send them the Holy Spirit, who should teach them all truth; and, at last, present them to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.

Isa. 9. 6-7; Jn. 16.7-14 & 17.8-15; Eph. 5.25-27; Heb. 9.28.

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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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QUALIFICATION FOR BAPTISM

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41

On the day of Pentecost we witness the empowering of the church the Lord had started during His earthly ministry. The little flock, along with the Apostles, had been instructed to wait in Jerusalem for this day to come. While they may have wondered at these things, they obeyed. When the day came they both experienced and witnessed the manifestation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in fullness and power. It was not that the Spirit had not been there or had been inactive. But, now the work of the Lord would continue in the power of the Third Person of the Godhead and God would be glorified and Christ would be exalted.

We note that on this day things were set in order and priorities were established. The message of Peter recorded here should serve as a pattern for true Gospel preaching and communicating of the Word of the Lord. There is no methodology given or suggested. The Gospel and the Lordship of Christ is rather proclaimed without solicitation. So we would note the nature and content of the Gospel method, the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and the proper effect upon those to whom the promise came. (Acts 2:39). It is obvious that opposition was immediately manifested from established religion. But, from that time forward, men have sought to inject their own ideas and improvements to what happened and what was declared on that glorious day resulting in a departure from the Gospel and the Christ who was first preached.

The end result of the work of the message and the work of the Holy Spirit was about three thousand being baptized and added to the church. Baptism had been established under the ministry of John the Baptist, was acknowledged by Christ's own baptism and continued through our Lord's earthly ministry. It was the ordinance given whereby public confession of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ was recognized, and repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ was declared. It was the condition of acceptance into the church. The Great Commission of Matthew 28 includes baptism as a necessity to true discipleship. One does not pass into salvation or churches through this act; rather it is the Lord that adds to the church such as should be saved! Baptism is an act of obedience born out of true belief in and identity with Christ. The word means to bury or immerse completely and so we are symbolically “buried with Him in baptism” and raised up to newness of life with Him.

But, in view of many practices past and present our question is one of qualification. That qualification is clearly stated in this text and nowhere in scripture has that been altered or replaced. Baptism was administered to them that “gladly received His word.” What or whose word is referenced here? Certainly they heard the preaching of Peter, but it was the Word of God that had come to them. They had heard the message of human depravity in that he charged them with the crucifixion of Christ. At the same

time they heard of the sovereignty of God in that Christ was delivered up by the “determinate council and foreknowledge of God.” So, the message was that the Lamb of God was crucified, buried and rose again according to the scriptures and the will of God. Furthermore, Peter declared “that God had made that same Jesus, who you have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” This is the word they had heard and this was the word they received. We understand from this they believed this word.

In receiving and believing we understand more than mere agreement that a story is true. The fact is they embraced and submitted to JESUS as Lord and Christ. We can assume there were no smiles or light conversation here. They were guilty sinners and had come to know it. Often the message heard today outlines the steps to an empty promise. These cried out in desperation, “What shall we do?” They were told to repent and to be baptized as proof of their repentance in the name of Jesus Christ. The manifestation of such true salvation is a consciousness of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit enabling them to live a life of acceptance with God.

We must examine the manner in which they received the Word. There was gladness. We experience gladness at relief from some desperate situation or anticipation of future delight. It is evident that they were glad to be delivered up from the wrath of He that is both

Lord and Christ. But, they were, also, delighting in the prospect of fellowship with God. Blind Bartimaeus tossed away his rags when he heard that he was being brought to Jesus. So, it is with one coming to Christ. He gladly departs from old things and delights in those things that have become new.

Why did these things happen? They had been pricked in their hearts! They were not asked to make a decision or pray a prayer or recite a prescribed profession of faith. Their hearts had been opened by the miraculous work of God, the Holy Spirit. There was no appeal to freewill or a plea to let the Lord come into their hearts. He had opened their hearts and sovereignly entered in to claim what was His. There was only the declaration that the crucified Jesus was both Lord and Christ. Such was the experience of those who were baptized.

Do all those being baptized today meet this qualification? Is it truly believer’s baptism or is it “deciders” baptism? Are all those being baptized able to receive this word and its implications? Or are they being led to a methodology rather than a person – Jesus Christ, the Lord?

Sadly, the sovereignty of God and the absolute Lordship of Christ is missing from the message today. The Pentecostal message is not one of charismatic gifts; it is the proclamation that Jesus is Lord and Christ. “Repent ye and believe the Gospel.” *bhs*

The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. So His own Word expressly declares: "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure" (Isa 46:10); "He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand" (Dan 4:35). Divine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, that He is on the Throne of the universe, directing all things, working all things "after the counsel of His own will" (Eph 1:11). Arthur W. Pink *The Attributes of God*

“Repent, and Believe in the Gospel”

The Lord Jesus Christ requires: “Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15); “I tell you, unless you repent you will perish” (Luke 13:3 condensed); “He who believes [the gospel] and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

Certain ministers of religion would have us believe otherwise – according to their conduct at funerals. A man or woman may refuse to repent of sins and believe the gospel and trust in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for salvation. He or she may even have lived most wickedly and sinfully. Nevertheless, at that sinner’s final “celebration of life”, certain ministers of religion will identify the unrepentant and unbelieving deceased as “our dear brother/sister in Christ”, and announce that he/she has gone to heaven to be forever with Jesus.

I ask you: Whom will you believe?

Will you believe the minister of religion who deliberately denies Christ, disregards repentance and faith unto salvation, and falsely claims to send you to heaven in your sins and unbelief?

Or will you believe the Lord Jesus Christ – who requires “Repent, and believe in the gospel”?– Daniel E. Parks



PROVIDENTIAL OVERRULING

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God; to those who are the called according to His purpose." — Romans 8:28 My soul! be still! You are in the hands of your Covenant God! Were all the strange circumstances in your history the result of accident, or chance — you might well be overwhelmed! But "all things," and this thing (be what it may) which may be now disquieting you — is one of these "all things" that are so working mysteriously for your good. Trust your God! He will not deceive you — your interests are with Him in safe custody. When sight says, "All these things are against me," let faith rebuke the hasty conclusion, and say, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" How often does God hedge up your way with thorns — to elicit simple trust! How seldom can we see all things so working for our good! But it is better discipline to believe it. Oh! for faith amid frowning providences, to say, "I know that Your judgments are good;" and, relying in the dark, to exclaim, "Though He slays me — yet will I trust Him!" Blessed Jesus! to You are committed the reins of this universal empire. The same hand that was once nailed to the cross — is now wielding the scepter on the throne, "all power in Heaven and in earth is given unto You." How can I doubt the wisdom, and the faithfulness, and love, of the most mysterious earthly dealing — when I know that the Scroll of Providence is thus in the hands of Him who has given the mightiest pledge Omnipotence could give — of His tender interest in my soul's well-being, by giving Himself for me? John MacDuff *Meditations*

"A long stretch of health has a tendency to make us think that we are immortal." Spurgeon