

How to pray in our own Gethsemanes -- (J.R. Miller)

"And being in agony--He prayed more earnestly!" Luke 22:44

This is the record of our Savior's Gethsemane experience. Like a bright lamp, this Scripture shines amid the olive trees of that garden--to show us the path to comfort in our time of sorrow. Never before nor since, has there been such grief as the Redeemer's that night--but He found comfort in His prayer. His agony lessened as He prayed, until at last its bitterness was all gone--and sweet, blessed peace took its place.

The 'gate of prayer' is one of comfort. There is no other place for true comfort and help. We learn from our Lord's Gethsemane agony--how to pray in our own Gethsemanes.

God never blames us for asking to have the bitter cup removed, nor for the intensity of our prayers; but we must always pray with submission to His will. When we sincerely pray, "Not my will, but may Your will be done"--comfort comes, and then peace.



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 XXVII. Is there anything in the covenant of grace of a precarious or uncertain nature?

Answer. No; for it is ordered in all things and sure, and is confirmed by the promise and oath of God.

2 Sam. 23.5; Psa. 89. 33-37; Jer. 33.20-21; Matt. 24. 35; Jn. 17.12, 24; Rom. 11.29.

Question XXVIII. Are the called according to God's purpose to take any consolation from the glory and stability of this covenant?

Answer. Yes; for it contains all their salvation, and all their desire.

2 Sam. 23.5; Isa. 54.10; Jn. 10.28-29; Heb. 6.17-20.

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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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THE UNKNOWN GOD

For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. Acts 17:23

Men are by nature idolaters. This thought has been borne out all through history. In every nation imagery and symbolism is found as the basis of religious activity. Athens was certainly no exception. It is the self-seeking approach of men that make this so. Men tend to worship such as they think will prosper them or protect them. They would have their desired level of comfort either attained or maintained. So, they think in terms of a god or gods that may grant that. Such is not the need of men nor can their needs be supplied in that way.

In Psalm 115 we find the futility of idol worship described. They have mouths that cannot speak, so there is neither instruction for life nor demand for repentance forthcoming. They cannot see and therefore cannot assess the creature's needs. They have ears that cannot hear and thus prayers to them are useless. They have noses that cannot smell and so no sweet smelling odor of acceptable sacrifice is ever detected by them. In looking to the very opposite of these things we see the depiction of our redeemer God. We have His word, He sees our needs, He hears the prayers of His people and He has reacted to the sweet smell of the sacrifice of Christ in the behalf of His people.

The fact that the Athenians had erected this idol to the UNKNOWN GOD is evidence that they knew of the existence of God, but they were ignorant of Him and certainly did not personally know Him. While Paul would

acknowledge their effort he would reveal it as both ineffective and offensive to God. It was clearly a gross case of mistaken identity to place an idol to represent God in the midst of their many idols. Superstition is born out of fear and seeks to relieve it. So they built an idol. Paul would declare to them this God and show them that He was anything but an idol.

We witness a very similar situation in the world and our land today. The difference is that they use the name of God and know all the key words with reference to Him but betray the fact that they do not know Him. We need only look to the things that Paul declared to realize that the god of the many today is not the God of the Apostle Paul and true believers everywhere. They have an image of God that may be contemplated without fear. They know of sin but do not see the extreme hatred of God for it. They engage in superficial worship but not to the point that it disturbs their self-esteem. They know some things about God (not all true) but they do not know Him. It is disturbing to know that the devils know more about God than many professing Christians. *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. James 2:19.* One has properly asked why we are not shaken by what we believe. That is how can it be that such appear to serve both God and mammon.

Consider then how Paul described God to them in the light of the typical “feel good” message of today. He began by declaring that

God is the creator of all things and that without the aid of men. Furthermore he declared that He was Lord of Heaven and earth. This is the declaration of absolute rule and authority to do as He wills. He does not dwell in the creations of men and is not worshipped with men's hands. Paul further declared that He needs nothing and that He gives to all life and breath and all things. Life and breath are His to give and to take away. It is obvious that when we hear men referring to God as the "man upstairs" or the "big man" and when they casually say "thank the Lord" and then go their way unmoved and unchanged that they are unaware of both God and His power to "kill and to make alive." Paul elsewhere described them as having a "form of Godliness but denying the power thereof."

Men presume to rebel against God and/or determine their own fate. Yet, here Paul declares that God has both appointed their times and determined their bounds. Although He has given evidence of His existence to all in that it is in Him that they live and move and have their being, they discount such things as inconsequential. Men are moved to presumptive idolatry in thinking that God can be manipulated to suit their own desires. In such

cases they offer Him passing acknowledgement while never bowing to His absolute sovereignty and seeking His mercy. How offensive it must be to liken the Godhead to gold or silver and how offensive it must be to utter the name of God and then falsely describe him to men.

So it is then that the command has gone forth to all men everywhere to repent. The reason is that Jesus Christ has come into the world and both declared and established the righteousness of God and no other is accepted. It is against this righteousness of Christ that all men will be judged. In simple terms, "pretty good" will land one in hell for all eternity!!! That it is so is assured by the resurrection of Christ from the dead. He is our risen Lord and King. It is to Him to show mercy by the offering of Himself to God. *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12.* The resurrection of Christ confirms to the world that all that the Scripture declared concerning Him is true. But, many will go on serving an UNKNOWN GOD to their eternal destruction. We must have His righteousness. So we echo the command of our Lord: "repent ye and believe the Gospel!" *bhs*

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

This simply refers to the fact that all things are under His rule and control, and that nothing happens in this Universe without His direction or permission. He is a God Who works, not just some things, but all things after the counsel of His own will (see Eph. 1:11). God's purpose is all-inclusive and is never thwarted (see Isa. 46:11). Nothing Takes Him by Surprise

"It ...is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things but that He does so always and without exception." -John Piper

God is sovereign over the entire universe: Ps 103:19; Rom 8:28; Eph 1:11

God is sovereign over all of nature: Ps 135:6-7; Mt 5:45; 6:25-30

God is sovereign over angels & Satan: Ps 103:20-21; Job 1:12

God is sovereign over nations: Ps 47:7-9; Dan 2:20-21; 4:34-35

God is sovereign over human beings: 1 Sam 2:6-7; Gal 1:15-16

God is sovereign over animals: Ps 104:21-30; 1 Ki 17:4-6

God is sovereign over "accidents": Pr 16:33; Jon 1:7; Mt 10:29

God is sovereign over free acts of men: Ex 3:21; 12:25-36; Ez 7:27

God is sovereign over sinful acts of men and Satan: 2 Sam 24:1; 1 Chr 21:1; Gen 45:5; 50:20 *Copied*

Translations of Scripture

Charlie Payne

If you want a purely historical account of the history of Israel, read the Good News Bible. If you want a purely intellectual account of the Holy Scripture, read the Moffatt translation. If you want a very good version of the Scripture with several shades of meaning to certain words and phrases, read the Amplified Version. If you want a purely modern-day, fundamentalist interpretation of the scripture, read the Living Bible. If you want a very good reference Bible to help you study, use the New International Version. If you want a fair version that does away with the fact that God must be propitiated, read the Revised Standard Version. If you want a fair version that does teach propitiation, read the American Standard Version.

But if you want to study God's Word with an eye to seeing Christ exalted in all the foundational doctrines of the gospel and of the Person and work of each of the three Divine Persons as they are revealed in one God, you must read and study the King James Version. None of the other versions, either singly or combined, can compare to the beauty and power of the King James Version as it is written. Many of the above versions, in their attempt to make God's Word understandable to the unregenerate mind (whether the common man or the intellectual), destroy the basic foundational truths of our faith concerning God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, salvation, redemption, and God's eternal purpose as they are revealed in the King James Version.

...Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.—2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Ten thousand enemies cannot stop a Christian, cannot even slow him down, if he meets them in an attitude of complete trust in God. They will become to him like the atmosphere that resists the airplane, but which because the plane's designer knew how to take advantage of that resistance, actually lifts the plane aloft and holds it there for a journey of 2,000 miles. What would have been an enemy to the plane becomes a helpful servant to aid it on its way....

If this should seem like a bit of theorizing, remember that always the greatest Christians have come out of hard times and tough situations. Tribulations actually worked for their spiritual perfection in that they taught them to trust not in themselves but in the Lord who raised the dead. They learned that the enemy could not block their progress unless they surrendered to the urgings of the flesh and began to complain. And slowly, they learned to stop complaining and start praising. It is that simple—and it works. (We Travel an Appointed Way, p.32-33.)

"Lord, I wish I could more readily 'stop complaining and start praising.' I pray for Your grace to work within me that I might allow the trials to lift me aloft rather than press me down. I'll do it in Your strength today. Amen."

A. W. Tozer quoted by Dale Wallace