

No sin startles less—or damns surer!

Unbelief is man's great sin, and condemnation is his great misery. How dreadful a sin is the sin of unbelief, which brings men under the condemnation of the great God. No sin startles less—or damns surer! Unbelief is a sin which does not affright the conscience as some other sins do, but it kills the soul more certainly than any of those sins. Other sins could not damn us were it not for unbelief, which fixes the guilt of them all upon us. Unbelief is the sin of sins; and when the Spirit comes to convince men of sin, He begins with this as the capital sin. John Flavel

**GADSBY'S CATECHISM – William Gadsby about 1800**

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Question XXXIX. How are the elect made partakers of the redemption by Christ?

Answer. The elect are made partakers of the redemption by Christ in the effectual application of it to them by His Spirit.

Zech. 4. 6; Jn. 3.27 & 14.26; 1 Cor. 2.10 & 6.11; Eph. 2.1; Col. 2.13.

Question XL. How does the Spirit apply the redemption by Christ to the elect?

Answer. The Spirit applies the redemption by Christ to the elect by working faith in them, and thereby bringing them to a knowledge of their union to Christ in effectual calling.

Jn. 6.29 & 16.8-15; 1 Cor. 1.8-9; Eph. 2.8-10 & 3.17-19; Phil. 2.13; 2 Tim.1.9; Heb. 3.1.

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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

Volume 6, No. 23

June 9, 2013

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### THE GOD OF HOPE

*Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Romans 15:13*

As the Apostle neared the end of the Epistle to the Romans he expressed a most wonderful desire for them as an outcome of their relationship with the Lord. Joy and peace are certainly things desired by many but they lack the means and resources to obtain them. They place themselves as the objects of their own affections and seek to gratify and pacify themselves with such as they think themselves able to do. They are guided by the “lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.” Sometimes accuracy comes from the lips of the ungodly. Showing total contempt for the holiness of God a vile comedian once remarked that people are going to continue to sin because it feels good. Such is the deception of sin for the end thereof is far from peace or joy. Yet, for the moment, many think of what they have and what is fun for them and the limitations of a sinful nature allow them to go no farther.

True joy and peace is infinitely set apart from that of the world in many ways. In this verse the source of these things is perfect – the God of Hope. The targets to be filled of God are specific – you. The means of this filling is declared – it would be in believing. An abundance of hope would be experienced by those being filled. And, it would all evidenced as an expression of the power of God through the Holy Spirit. In this way Paul confidently prays for that which is discovered where God is the center of attention rather than ourselves. It is in looking steadfastly to Him that we learn of Him

and are assured by Him. *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6.* So, we must ask the question, “Is our quest for happiness and peace or is our quest for God?” The answer is simply displayed in the example of Christ Himself. He did always those things that “please the Father,” not as a servile task but because it was His delight to do so. Thus it would be said of Him: *...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.* That joy was the same that He would partake of with His redeemed.

Because of all that He has done and all that He has revealed in the person of Christ Jesus our Lord He is to us who believe, “The God of Hope.” As we look about with discouragement and disappointment, hope seems fleeting. Many have already declared our nation to be a place of no hope. Yet, we are made aware of the fact of our creator God who placed man in paradise. Man chose that which looked good over a delight in the presence of God and so fell. What does that have to do with hope? He has declared that He will deliver up New Heavens and a New earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. How can such a thing be? His purpose to redeem that which men have ruined has been in sight from the beginning to all who believe His report. So the coming of Christ to

redeem His people from their sins was prophesied and believed by the Old Testament Saints. Now that He has come and has suffered, died, rose again and ascended back into Glory, His report is received as the only message of hope. I stand before Him condemned and unclean apart from Christ and yet I live in the Hope of salvation because such is the promise to all who, by faith, lay hold on Him. The world and this nation may fall into total chaos and ruin, but mine is a living Hope and He is seated at the right hand of power on High. In raising from the dead He accomplished the justification of His own and demonstrated total ability to deliver on all He promised.

It is wonderful to learn that this hope is not found in a context of sobering anxiety. It is in being filled with joy and peace that hope is confirmed to us. The Psalmist declared: *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. Psalms 40:8.* There is no room for pride and self-seeking where such is the way of life. There is no concern for “things” since it is all inclusive with Him. Again, the Psalmist speaks of delight with outcomes: *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of*

*thine heart. Psalms 37:4.* To many the idea of joy is to have anything and everything they want. This is exactly what we have in Christ our Lord. And, the One that we love and delight in is also, “Mighty to save.”

Men often speak of “little hope,” “slim hope,” or “faint hope.” Some may aspire to entertain “great hope” or “high hopes.” But, to us we are given “abundant or abounding hope.” This is hope that is ever increasing as it looks forward to the day of His appearing. It is a “lively hope” to which we are begotten. It is expressly declared to be done in the power of the blessed Holy Spirit. Ye must be born again! As I am enabled by His grace to believe Him and His promise of mercy there remains no condemnation and no obstacle to the appearing, to me, of my Blessed Hope who is Christ Jesus the Lord. *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Hebrews 9:28.* And, lest we forget, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1!!! bhs*

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“He hath made him sin!” 2 Corinthians 5:21 -- Don Fortner

I am fully aware that carnal reason opposes this fact. Many have endeavored to make the Word of God say something else. We are told that Christ had sin imputed to him, that he bore the guilt of sin, that he was charged with the debt of our sins, that he became accountable for our sins, that he bore all the effects of our sins, and that he was treated as if he were sin. But this plain, straightforward, blessed statement of Holy Scripture is almost universally denied by men. — “He hath made him sin.” But there it stands. — “He hath made him sin.” How can this be? What can it mean?

In human law and reason, among men, I fully acknowledge that guilt cannot be transferred, but only its effects. Among the sons of men, a third person may cancel my debts, but not my crimes. But I am not talking to you about things men can, or may do. I am talking to you about what our God has done. And in this great affair of salvation our great God stands infinitely alone. In this, his most glorious work, there is such a display of justice, mercy, wisdom, and power as never entered into the heart of man to conceive. Consequently, it can have no parallel in the actions of mortals. — “Who hath declared this from ancient time? Who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me” (Isaiah 45:21).

*They who are in a natural condition, are in danger of going to hell every day.*

Those now present, who are in a natural condition, are in danger of dropping into hell before tomorrow morning. They have nothing to depend on, to keep them out of hell one day, or one night. We know not what a day may bring forth. God has not promised to spare them one day; and he is every day angry with them. The black clouds that are full of the thunder of God's wrath, hang over their heads every day, and they know not how soon the thunder will break forth upon their heads. Natural men are in Scripture compared to those that walk in slippery places. They know not when their feet will slip. They are continually in danger. Psalm lxxiii. 18, "Surely thou didst set them in slippery places; thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation as in a moment." Natural men hang over the pit of hell, as it were, by a thread, that has a moth continually gnawing it. They know not when it will snap in twain, and let them drop. They are in the utmost uncertainty; they are not secure one moment. A natural man never goes to sleep, but that he is in danger of waking in hell. Experience abundantly teaches the matter to be so. It shows, by millions of instances, that man is not certain of life one day. And how common a thing is it for death to come suddenly and unexpectedly! And thousands, beyond all reasonable question, are going to hell every day, and death comes upon them unexpectedly. "When they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." It is a dreadful condition that natural persons are in upon this account; and no wise person would be in their condition for a quarter of an hour for the whole world, because such is the danger that they will drop into hell before that quarter of an hour is expired. Thus I have shown how dreadful the condition of natural men is, relatively considered. Jonathan Edwards



#### TOO TIMID TO TELL THE TRUTH

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 contemporary moral climate does not favor a faith as tough and fibrous as that taught by our Lord and His apostles. The delicate, brittle saints being produced in our religious hothouses today are hardly to be compared with the committed, expendable believers who once gave their witness among men. And the fault lies with our leaders. They are too timid to tell the people all the truth. They are now asking men to give to God that which costs them nothing. Our churches these days are filled (or one-quarter filled) with a soft breed of Christian that must be fed on a diet of harmless fun to keep them interested. About theology they know little. Scarcely any of them have read even one of the great Christian classics, but most of them are familiar with religious fiction and spine-tingling films. No wonder their moral and spiritual constitution is so frail. Such can only be called weak adherents of a faith they never really understood. *Lord, send the Holy Spirit to renew within us a depth and seriousness in our pulpits. Give us boldness in our preaching. Amen* – A. W. Tozer

Erasing the struggle and suffering from this story (of life) would mean less appreciation for peace because war had never broken out; less appreciation for food because famine had never occurred; less appreciation for righteousness because sin never appeared; less love for life because death never happened; and less glory to God and heartfelt worship, because we'd never have seen his grace, mercy, and patience. Randy Alcorn