

*Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? John 6:67*

There are many points and particulars in which the Gospel is offensive to human nature and revolting to the pride of the creature. It was not intended to please man. How can we attribute such a purpose to God? Why should He devise a goal to suit the whims of our poor fallen human nature? He intended to save men, but He never intended to gratify their depraved tastes. Charles Spurgeon -- A Mournful Defection, Volume 50, Sermon #2914

#### 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 XLIII. What is justification?

Answer. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein the elect are accepted as righteous in God's sight alone, for the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and they receive it by faith. Rom. 4.3-5,24-25 & 5.18-19; 2 Cor. 5.21; Gal. 3.5-11; Phil. 3.9; Tit. 3.7.

Question XLIV. What is adoption?

Answer. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby the elect are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God. Jer.31.9; Rom. 8.15-17; 2 Cor. 6.17-18; Gal. 4.4-7; 1 Jn. 3.1-2.

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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

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### SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. Romans 6:18*

The thought that all men are slaves is sure to be met with violent opposition by many, if not most. Yet, our Lord spoke of alternatives that alluded to one of two masters. *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24.* A way of independence is not even considered. It is with great pride that men and nations think themselves to be independent. In the realm of humanity apart from the thoughts of God we think of our own country and the declaration of independence. We think of oppressive governments and religions. But, even as our Declaration of Independence was being written many of those signing were themselves slave-owners. So, it would seem that the concept of liberty is a relative thing in the minds of many.

While most will acknowledge the cruelty of human slavery there is something that is far worse and far more oppressive and all are subject to it. We think of slavery as having ended in this country and wink at the fact that it goes on in other places in the world. We stop our ears at the fact that young girls are being sold and imported into “white slavery” and “human trafficking” even now. But, there is a cruel form of slavery that is far worse than that. What makes it so insidious and successful is that those enslaved do not see themselves as such. In all the horribleness of the situations mentioned above, those enslaved know that they are enslaved. The ultimate slavery would

be to take them captive and then convince them that they were free and somehow convince that their way of life was to be enjoyed. This is the very nature of what our Lord called serving “mammon.” The terminology is “sold under sin.”

The scripture reveals to us that we are “born in sin and shapen in iniquity.” Until we are changed we know no other way of life. In the confines of that way we begin to imagine that we have some form of control over our lives and destinies and we act in pride to defend our ways before men and in opposition to the Word of God. The original deception is fulfilled in fallen man. Satan declared: *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Genesis 3:5.* In following the lie, man fell into slavery and believed that it was a good thing. *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12.*

Men are restrained to a degree by the external constraints of the divine influence exerted through Godly men. Such has been the case in many nations, including our own, that Godly men have preserved a semblance of morality and honor. Yet, certain characteristics prevail in the minds of those enslaved by sin. They are motivated by pride that exalts themselves to such a place as to believe with the noted atheist, “I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul,” thus asserting his own sovereignty against that of God. Pride then moves to self-promotion, self-preservation,

personal independence and so on. Add to this the idea that we are somehow entitled to happiness in our own way and we will be found fully sold out to sin and self. Out of this way men will rationalize selfish thought and untoward behaviors and call "that which is evil good." In spite of this men will foolishly insist that they have a free will to choose. Their will is only free as far as their fallen nature will allow. As such then they are free only to sin! "...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23

In the case of believers we find that God has issued an "Emancipation proclamation." *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32.* How is it then that our text takes us from one form of slavery to another form? The word for "servant" here may also be translated "bondslave." While it may sound impossible, the child of God becomes the slave of true freedom. It is true that such are fully submitted as servants (slaves) of God. By virtue of redemption they are His and are said to be "bought with a price." Yet, they love their Master and have no desire to be free from His claims upon them. They are fully submitted to the righteousness of Christ in that they have none of their own. They find themselves

willingly obedient to the Law of Righteousness as it is written in their hearts and in their minds. In fact, God acts to the, *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:5.*

The servant (slave) of righteousness sees the righteousness of Christ as a way of life and can no longer be inclined in any other way. One may argue that this is just another form of deception. The difference here is that such have been made alive in Christ (rather than "dead in trespasses and sin") and are able to see the alternative. Redemption and regeneration makes all the difference. "Ye must be born again." True believers see the horror of sin as theirs was placed on Christ that they might indeed be delivered up to an eternal life of slavery to God. Our slaveholder has provided all that is needed so that their desire is ever to Him. They are fed the Word of God. They drink forever from the fountain of life. They are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. They are made partakers of the divine nature. And, rejoice with Him forever more and they do so freely. O glorious slavery! *bhs*

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*The solemn counsel which our Lord addresses to His disciples should often ring in our ears--* "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." It should be the Christian's daily motto from the time of his conversion to the hour of his death. Are we true Christians? and would we keep our souls awake? Let us not forget that we have within us a double nature--a ready "spirit" and weak "flesh" a carnal nature inclined to evil, and a spiritual nature inclined to good. These two are contrary one to the other. (Gal. 5:17.) Sin and the devil will always find helpers in our hearts. If we do not crucify and rule over the flesh, it will often rule over us and bring us to shame. Are we true Christians, and would we keep our souls awake? Then let us never forget to "watch and pray." We must watch like soldiers--we are upon enemy's ground. We must always be on our guard. We must fight a daily fight, and war a daily warfare. The Christian's rest is yet to come. We must pray without ceasing, regularly, habitually, carefully, and at stated times. We must pray as well as watch, and watch as well as pray. Watching without praying is self-confidence and self-conceit. Praying without watching is enthusiasm and fanaticism. The man who knows his own weakness, and knowing it both watches and prays, is the man that will be held up and not allowed to fall. J. C. Ryle

## THOUGHTS ON HEAVEN

(1.) Of the Bible-heaven, that heaven described in the Old and New Testaments. Is not that heaven a lifting up in due time? But, how shall you be lifted up that are never well got down? Where will your tears be to be wiped away? What place will there be for your triumph, who will not fight the good fight? How can it be a rest to you who cannot submit to labor?

(2.) Of the saints' heaven. "And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This answers the question about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the saints with them there. They were brought down to the dust by humbling circumstances, and out of these they came before the throne. How can you ever think to be lifted up with them with whom you cannot think to be brought down?

(3.) Of Christ's heaven. "Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of God " Oh! Consider how the Forerunner made His way. "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" And lay your account with it that if you get where He is you must go there as He went. "And He said, If any man win come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Thomas Boston – *The Crook in the Lot*

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## DOING GOOD

A Blessing to Ourselves IF we view this microcosm, the human body, we shall find that the heart does not receive the blood to store it up, but while it pumps it in at one valve, it sends it forth at another. The blood is always circulating everywhere, and is stagnant nowhere; the same is true of all the fluids in a healthy body, they are in a constant state of expenditure. If one cell stores for a few moments its peculiar secretion, it only retains it till it is perfectly fitted for its appointed use in the body; for if any cell in the body should begin to store up its secretion, its store would soon become the cause of inveterate disease; nay, the organ would soon lose the power to secrete at all, if it did not give forth its products. The whole of the human system lives by giving. The eye cannot say to the foot, I have no need of thee, and will not guide thee; for if it does not perform its watchful office, the whole man will be in the ditch, and the eye will be covered with mire. If the members refuse to contribute to the general stock, the whole body will become poverty-stricken, and be given up to the bankruptcy of death. Let us learn, then, from the analogy of nature, the great lesson, that to get, we must give; that to accumulate, we must scatter; that to make ourselves happy, we must make others happy; and that to get good and become spiritually vigorous, we must do good, and seek the spiritual good of others. C. H. Spurgeon – *Feathers for Arrows*

*Just as you allot time to eating, sleeping, and business, so also allot time to prayer. Choose your own hours and seasons. At the very least, speak with God in the morning, before you speak with the world: and speak with God at night, after you have done with the world. J. C. Ryle*