

“God saved you for Himself; God saved you by Himself; God saved you from Himself.” Paul Washer

“I fall asleep quietly confident that I will be a believer in the morning not because of my free will but God's free grace.” John Piper

### 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 LXIII. Can the law show any mercy to transgressors?

Answer. The law is a transcript of God's holiness and justice, and contains a righteous display of His wrath and indignation against ungodliness and ungodly men, and pronounces the man accursed who continues not in all things written in the book of the law to do them; therefore it cannot show mercy to transgressors.

Deut. 27.26; Matt. 15.18-20; Gal. 3.10-11; Heb. 2.2 & 10.28 & 12.18-21; 1 Pet. 1.15-16.

Question LXIV. How then can God be just, and yet justify transgressors of His holy law?

Answer. The Lord Jesus Christ, as the Head and Representative of His people, was made under the law to redeem them that were under it; and, in His people's room and stead, has fulfilled, magnified and made it honourable, wrought out and brought in an everlasting righteousness for their justification; was made sin for them, and they are made the righteousness of God in Him. Thus God is just, and yet the justifier of all that believe in Christ Jesus.

Isa. 42.21 & 53.10-11; Dan. 9.24; Rom. 3.26 & 5.15-21 & 10.4; 2 Cor. 5.21; Gal. 3.13 & 4.4; 1 Pet. 3.18.

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: [branthsj@msn.com](mailto:branthsj@msn.com)

Website: [www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com](http://www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com)

#### 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. 34

August 25, 2013

---

---

### WHAT IS GOOD?

*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Micah 6:8*

When presented with the prospect of salvation and a life with God men often ask first, “what must I do?” This reveals the fact that they cling to some idea of producing within themselves something that would be acceptable to God. The question may be a simple inquiry asked without urgency, or, it may be asked in desperation as was the Jailer who cried out to Paul and Silas, “Sirs what must I do to be saved?” The question might better be asked, “What must I be to be saved?” The earthbound thoughts of men lead them to seek solutions of themselves. There is none where salvation is concerned. “With men this is impossible.”

The answer of Paul to the Jailer was “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved...” The word “believe” here is not a mere acknowledgment; it is to have faith in Christ as a way of life. Paul was telling him what he must do and by implication what he must be. We read and know of the divine mandates in scripture such “Repent ye and believe the Gospel” and “God commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” But these things have a desired outcome in the economy of Grace. That is, there is a life of design that is to follow and so the question is rightly asked and answered here. The question is “What is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee..?” The answer describes the way of life of all true believers. The three-part answer is simple and without equivocation.

The issue with regard to these things is to

whom are these things addressed. The immediate answer would be to do good deeds, show mercy to others and acknowledge God. These things will certainly be an outcome of a proper response to what is required. But, the matter of justice answers to God, not to merely acting in a righteous manner. To do justly would be to respond to the issues of God’s holiness and repentance and the reason of it. Robert Hawker wrote: “Reader! you and I shall indeed do justly with our God, if we confess that in ourselves, by reason of sin, we justly deserve his wrath and indignation, having broken all his righteous laws.” The thought of acting in a righteous manner toward others will never be enabled and found to be genuine except we acknowledge that we are subject to the justice of God.

Pride does not die without a struggle. The vestiges of pride are a constant thorn to the person who is aware that it is only by the mercy of God that he is kept out of hell. In regeneration we are awakened to our need of mercy and that justice is the only alternative. The songwriter in describing the revelation of Christ in us wrote: “Ere long a heav’nly voice I heard/ And mercy’s angel form appeared; /She led me on with gentle pace, /To Jesus as my hiding place.” We rejoice in mercy that our sins are forgiven. To say that we love mercy is to love Christ. The love of Christ and any thought of human endeavor cannot coexist. When we contemplate mercy we do not merely think of

being delivered from a just judgment and being kept out of hell. It is rather that we are led to "our Mercy Seat" there to discover the true design of God – The love of the Lord Jesus Christ and the ability to Love Him supremely. "We love Him because He first us." We love Him for all that He has done, is doing and ever shall do for us. We behold His suffering in our behalf and know of the intensity of His love for we who Love Him.

As a result of such a consideration of mercy and loving mercy in opposition to pride we become merciful. That is, mercy is experienced. *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7.* It is not that He was merciful, He is merciful and so we walk with a functional consciousness of mercy. To love mercy then is also to show mercy. The love of mercy generates in us the "gentleness of Christ."

What a precious thought that we might "walk with God." We are reminded of Enoch who "walked with God." Such companionship with God is again reflected in our identity with Christ. The invitation to "take my yoke upon you" was not that He should pass the burden to you. A yoke is for two and it is He in the other

side. The invitation is to more than labor – it is to companionship. We are to take His yoke and learn of Him and we can safely assume that such comes from Him. He described Himself as meek and lowly in heart. To walk humbly with God is to walk in a way of worship and submission to Him. To walk humbly with God is to learn and thus grow in the "grace and knowledge of Him." We do none of those spiritual things that believers do apart from Him. If we would meditate we would do it as we "walk with Him." If we would enter the Word of God, let us go with Him therein and do so humbled by the thought that we should be treated by Him as a friend: *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Psalms 25:14.* We stand in awe of all that is revealed to us of the Majesty of God and His Glory. We are amazed at the extent of His Sovereignty and the magnitude of His might. And, we are humbled that we are called to walk with Him.

Many would argue that these things are directed to men and justice among men with God looking on. When we do these things toward God, the effect will benefit all with whom we have to do. *bhs*

---

## SAFE WALKING

"All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth — unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies." — Psalm 25:10 The paths of the Lord! My soul! never follow your own paths. If you do, you will be in danger often of following sight rather than faith — choosing the evil, and refusing the good. But "commit your way unto the Lord — and He shall bring it to pass." Let this be your prayer, "Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths." Oh! for Caleb's spirit, "to wholly follow the Lord my God" — to follow Him when self must be sacrificed, and hardship must be borne, and trials await me. To "walk with God" — to ask in simple faith, "What would You have me to do?" — to have no will of my own — but this, that God's will is to be my will. Here is safety — here is happiness! Fearlessly follow the Guiding Pillar. He will lead you by a right way, though it may be by a way of hardship, and crosses, and losses, and privations — to the city of God. Oh! the blessedness of thus lying passive in the hands of God, saying "Undertake for me God!" Oh! the blessedness of dwelling with holy gratitude on past mercies and interpositions; trusting these as pledges of future faithfulness and love; and hearing His voice behind us, amid life's many perplexities, exclaiming, "This is the way — walk in it!" "Happy," surely, "are every people who are in such a case!" It will be for you, Reader, if you can form the resolve in a strength greater than you own: "This God shall be my God forever and ever; He shall be my Guide even unto death!" — John McDuff

Worship God in the shop or kitchen

My dear friend,

The more the Lord blesses you in earthly things—the more sensible you will be that true happiness is only to be found in Himself; for sin and vanity are closely connected with everything beneath the skies! In this view, I trust He will enable you to number your troubles among your mercies, as necessary to keep your soul from cleaving to the dust, and to quicken your prayers and desires heavenwards.

Our necessary relationships in this life, especially those which are most pleasing, are attended with many snares. May the Lord keep you sensible of the danger, that you may be watchful against the first appearances of spiritual decline, and be continually crying, "Hold me up—and then I shall be safe!"

I am, however, fully persuaded that a due attention to the concerns of our relative duties and callings in this world, can never be a hindrance to our walking with God. These earthly things require some of our thoughts—and much of our time; and if we can manage them in obedience to His will, and with a reference to His glory—they are then sanctified, and become holy actions. A believer, acting in a right spirit, may be truly said to worship God in the shop or kitchen, no less than when waiting on Him in prayer and Scripture meditation. A person called by God's providence to sweep the streets, if he does it to the Lord, performs as acceptable a service as another who should preach the Gospel to thousands! --John Newton May 2, 1771

---

### THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL

In days gone by, the Christian gospel was often referred to as the evangel, from the Latin word evangelium, meaning gospel or good news. It is for this reason that believers are often referred to as evangelicals. We are Christians because we find our identity, life, and purpose in Christ. We are evangelical because we believe the gospel and esteem it as the great central truth of God's revelation to men. It is not a foreword, a byword, or an afterthought; it is not merely the introductory class to Christianity; it is the entire course of study. It is the story of our lives, the unfathomable riches we seek to explore, and the message we live to proclaim. For this reason, we are most Christian and most evangelical when the gospel of Jesus Christ is our one hope, our one boast, and our one magnificent obsession. Today, evangelicals design so many conferences, especially for our youth, with the intention of exciting the believer's passion through fellowship, music, eloquent speakers, emotional stories, and impassioned pleas. Yet whatever excitement they create often quickly vanishes. In the end, these experiences build little fires in little hearts that burn out in a few days. We have forgotten that genuine, enduring passion is born out of one's knowledge of the truth, and specifically the truth of the gospel. The more you know or comprehend its beauty, the more its power will apprehend you. One glimpse of the gospel will move the truly regenerate heart to follow. Every greater glimpse will quicken its pace until it is running recklessly toward the prize.<sup>5</sup> The truly Christian heart cannot resist such beauty. This is the great need of the day! It is what we have lost and what we must regain—a passion for knowing the gospel and an equal passion for making the gospel known. –Paul Washer