

"Through God's unfailing grace, our sorrows become easier to bear. In His divine plan, our sufferings can be sanctified. It can purify us, draw us closer to Him and make us stronger instruments in sanctifying the world. Christ Himself chose suffering as the divine means of saving mankind. We should pray, therefore, for the courage that can only come from Him who died for our sins. By looking at sorrow as a blessing in disguise, we shall regard it not as a sign of failure but as small prices to pay for the everlasting peace and joy of heaven." James Keller

### 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 LXXVII. Is the gospel, in all its branches, a sufficient rule of life to a believer in Christ?

Answer. Yes; for through the life-giving power of the Spirit, faith lives upon Christ, the Living Head, and gospel precepts are the believer's rule in the world, in the family, in the church, and in case of personal offences.

Jn. 14.21; Rom. 6.14 & 8.9-11,14; 2 Cor. 9.8; Gal. 6.14-16; Phil. 3.16; Col. 3.1-3.

Question LXXVIII. Can you give a proof of the precepts of the gospel as a rule to a believer in the world?

Answer. Yes; for it is written, "I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God." "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal."

Matt. 5.43-48; Rom. 12.17-18; Eph. 6.5-9; Col. 3.22-25 & 4.1; I Jn. 2.15.

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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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### UNTO THE PURE

*Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. Titus 1:15*

Regeneration changes everything. According to an old Webster’s dictionary the word regeneration has this meaning relative to theology: “new birth by the grace of God; that change by which the will and natural enmity of man to God and His law are subdued, principle of supreme love to God and His law, or holy affections, are implanted in the heart.” Thus it is by the divine work of regeneration we are brought to not just a new way of life, but to a new life which is centered in Christ. It is only this new creation in Christ Jesus that is acceptable to God. Common sense tells us that man could never self-regenerate. Therefore we quote our Lord, “you must be born again.”

Those changes include the perceptions of the believer, or the way they see things. We look to the Scriptures to confirm that thought. Consider, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17*. It is obvious that the apostle was saying that a new perspective on life was in force with this new creation. We are, likewise, reminded of *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8*. Thus we understand that the primary focus of born again believers is God Himself. All things have become new because we are made partakers of the divine nature and therefore see things as God sees them. Of course, the hindrances of the old nature prevent seeing them as clearly as we desire.

As to the text before us, it was given as a

response to grave errors that were being forced upon true believers. There were those who were insisting that the old Jewish laws misapplied and fables that had come into existence through tradition be incorporated into their worship. In this case, the particular issue was dietary laws. The Apostle Paul addressed this elsewhere. See: *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:4-5*. The intent here was to enslave them with a system that would fuel pride in their ability to obey arbitrary laws. Thus they would be led to dependence upon their own abilities and would look to the establishment of their own righteousness. They would deny all aspects of redemption and its absolute necessity. They would trust their own free-will rather than the blood of Christ. His suffering, death and resurrection may impress them but not be seen as sufficient for salvation. They certainly would not acknowledge the sovereign sanctifying presence of the Holy Spirit. Dependence on any other would require them to deny their foolish pride. Such an approach is not only identified as error, it is deemed evil by the apostle writing under inspiration.

But, “Unto the pure all things are pure.” Albert Barnes wrote, “The phrase has a proverbial cast, though I know not that it was so fused. The principle of the declaration is, that a pure mind - a truly pious mind - will not regard

the distinctions of food and drink; of festivals, rites, ceremonies, and days, as necessary to be observed in order to promote its purity." He, like others, saw the immediate application as answering to the above described ever. His use of the term "proverbial" indicates a broader application. The thought of "newness of life" brings with it a new view or perspective with regard to all that we do. The focus is first upon the Lord. In His presence, the things we experience, the foods we eat, the works in which we are employed, are sanctified by His presence. We are thus grown through all we experience including suffering. Peter exhorted that we should grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This "rise and progress of religion in the soul" occurs with no thought in the mind of the believer that he has made any contribution to it whatsoever. It is all of grace.

Normally when we hear such terms as defiled and unbelieving we think of those who commit crimes that all of society recognizes as horrible and unacceptable. But here the apostle applies these words to religious people. We have become so hardened in our "politically correct" way of thinking about religion that we just accept all as being okay. The word of God has no tolerance here. If it is found in opposition to true faith in the grace of God it is classified as

sin and evil. Two things are said concerning such people here. First is the thought that nothing is pure to them. That is, nothing is processed through their minds in a way that is acceptable to God and complies with His standards of righteousness. All things are viewed from the perspective of a fallen and corrupt nature trying to be religious. Secondly, their defilement extends the process of their thinking (mind) and their perception of right and wrong (conscience). In other words, they have no means of even sensing the just demands of a Holy God. They dabble in matters of outward religion without a consciousness of the nature of sin and so they exalt human wisdom above the word of God.

How foolish it is to pursue a way that is unacceptable to God when the provisions of grace in Christ Jesus our Lord are presented to us throughout the word of God. The wisdom of Peter was shown early as he said, *Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? Acts 15:10.* Thus it is that we thank God for repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit that illumines our minds to see Jesus.

O Lord! enable us to see all things through purified eyes. *bhs*

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Bible teacher Paris Reidhead said,

"If I had my way, I would declare a moratorium on public preaching of 'the plan of salvation' in America for one to two years.

Then I would call on everyone who has use of the airwaves and the pulpits to preach the holiness of God, the righteousness of God, and the Law of God until sinners would cry out, 'What must we do to be saved?'

Then I would take them off in a corner and whisper the Gospel to them. Such drastic action is needed because we have Gospel-hardened a generation of sinners by telling them how to be saved before they have any understanding why they need to be saved."

*Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.** Mark 1:14-15*

Forgetters of God!  
(Charles Spurgeon, "Treasury of David")

"The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God!" Psalm 9:17

How solemn is this verse, especially in its warning to forgetters of God!  
The moral who are not devout,  
the honest who are not prayerful,  
the benevolent who are not believing,  
the amiable who are not converted--  
these must all have their own portion with the openly wicked, in the Hell which is prepared for the devil and his demons! There are whole nations of such; the forgetters of God are far more numerous than the openly profane or profligate!

According to the very forceful expression in the Hebrew, the nethermost Hell will be the place into which all of them shall be hurled headlong! Forgetting God seems to be a small sin, but it brings eternal wrath upon the man who lives and dies in it!  
(The following is by Thomas Watson)

"The wicked shall be turned into Hell." The ungodly at death must undergo God's fury and indignation. I have read of a lodestone which has two corners--with one it draws the iron to it, with the other it thrusts the iron away from it. Just so, God has two hands--of mercy and justice: with the one He will draw the godly to Heaven--with the other He will thrust the sinner to Hell!

And oh, how dreadful is that place! It is called a fiery lake (Revelation 20:15).  
A lake, to denote the plenty of torments in Hell.  
A fiery lake, to show the fierceness of them!  
Fire is the most torturing element. Strabo in his geography mentions a lake of such a pestiferous nature, that it scalds off the skin of whatever is cast into it. But, alas! that lake is cool compared with this fiery lake into which the damned are thrown!

To demonstrate that this fire is terrible, there are two most dreadful qualities in it:  
It is sulphurous--it is mixed with brimstone, which is stinking and suffocating.  
It is inextinguishable--though the wicked shall be choked in the flames, yet not consumed.

"And the devil was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever!" Behold the deplorable condition of all ungodly ones in the eternal world--they shall have a life that always dies--and a death that always lives! May not this affright men out of their sins, and make them become godly--unless they are resolved to experience how hot Hell-fire is!"



"There will only be two parties of mankind at the last great day: those who are on the right hand of Christ, and those who are on the left; - those who are counted righteous, and those who are wicked; - those who are safe in the ark, and those who are outside; - those who are gathered like wheat into God's barn, and those who are left behind like tares to be burned. Now, what will your portion be?" ~ J.C. Ryle

"Freewill has carried many souls to hell, but never a soul to heaven."  
Charles H. Spurgeon