

"Bibles read without prayer; sermons heard without prayer; marriages contracted without prayer; journeys undertaken without prayer; residences chosen without prayer; friendships formed without prayer; the daily act of prayer itself hurried over, or gone through without heart: these are the kind of downward steps by which many a Christian descends to a condition of spiritual palsy, or reaches the point where God allows them to have a tremendous fall." ~ J.C. Ryle

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 LXXXIV. What is Baptism?

Answer. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ, to be unto the person baptized a sign of his fellowship with Him in His death, burial and resurrection; of his death unto sin, wrath and the law, and all other lords; of his resurrection unto life, and of his giving up himself unto God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life.

Rom. 6.3-5; Gal. 3.27; Col. 2.11-13 & 3.1-3; 1 Pet. 3.21.

Question LXXXV. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

Answer. Baptism is to be administered to those who are blessed with and actually profess repentance towards God, and faith in, and obedience to, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 2.37-38,41 & 8.12,36-37 & 10.47-48 & 22.16.

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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. 46

November 17, 2013

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### THE VALUE OF A SOUL

*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:26*

The thought provoked by this question is seldom if ever a matter of consequence to most. It is a question asked to make a point. The point is simply that there is nothing in this world that matters if one is discovered lost at last. What would a man consider a proper exchange for his soul? The answer is implied in the question. There is nothing that man can give in exchange for a lost soul. When a soul is gone, it is gone for all eternity – an eternity of infinite torment.

The verse before, *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. Matthew 16:25*, describes the futile efforts of men trying to claim an identity through earthly means. That is a paradox indeed that one should lose by seeking and should find his life by losing it. Many claims to salvation are based upon a perceived success of their own efforts. But, truly, though a lifetime was spent trying to save one's life it would all be lost in the end. *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: Hebrews 9:27*. On the contrary, when we die to this present life we discover perfect life in Christ that is never lost.

Luke's account of this passage is a little different. *And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? Luke 9:25*. He uses the word “himself” instead of “soul.” By this we see a definition of soul as being the “self” or the person we are. In the

creation account we are told that “The Lord God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul.” Thus we may conclude that our soul is the very essence of our being. It is who we are. David would thus speak with himself in this manner: *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. Psalms 42:11*.

Man in his pride seeks to establish his soul on his own terms. He will work to protect his soul. He will strive to please his soul. He will indulge his soul in the things of this world. All is lost with the using and is to no avail in the end. The rich man learned that lesson too late. In the Bible account he declares that he will build bigger and better barns only to hear the ominous words: “...thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee...” Many claim a standing and identity with God through good works or through a self-proclaimed righteousness. None of these things give either the right of possession or the right of redemption. *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6*.

Many there are who seem ignorant of the very existence of their souls and continue in a way that denies the consequences of death. Some think about it and then pass it off as did Felix who replied to Paul, “Go thy way for this

time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” There is no record that he ever did. Death is at the determination of God and does not look to the convenience of men.

Apart from faith in Christ, all devalue their own souls. The most extreme effort expended by men would not be enough. All the wealth of men cannot prevent the day of their death nor the consequences that follow. In the end, death (eternal death) is the wage paid to those who have declared themselves against the righteousness of Christ by seeking to preserve their fallen soul in the pursuit of sin and self-righteousness. The question “what would a man give” is unanswerable in human terms. Men have no concept of the value of a soul.

Those who know the Lord can answer that question. That discovery is made when one becomes aware of the price God paid for his own soul. The entire journey of our Lord from the incarnation to His ascension was made that he might redeem me. *For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. Psalms 116:8.* Many will glibly

quote John 3:16 without a thought that it took the giving of His Only Begotten Son up to such an ignominious death in order to satisfy His own justice. Such an action was not taken so that any who might choose to believe might be saved, but that that one who was graciously brought to believe would definitely be saved. Such was the value placed on that soul. The value of a soul is declared in the Gospel description of the price that was paid for one who could do nothing for himself. The suffering, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord were the required exchange for the soul of all who believe on Him! Can you come up with it?

Such love will ever remain a mystery to we who know Him. Was God not sufficient in Himself? But the fact that God would choose to glorify Himself in this way defies understanding. Is it any wonder that the souls of the redeemed of the Lord shall ever sing of God’s amazing Grace? After all, it is He who has *...redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; Revelation 5:9.*  
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### Why You Have a Body -- John Piper

For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:20) God did not create the physical-material universe willy-nilly. He had a purpose, namely, to add to the ways his glory is externalized and made manifest. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1).

Our bodies fit into that same category of physical things that God created for this reason. He is not going to back out on his plan to glorify himself through human beings and human bodies.

Why does God go to all the trouble to dirty his hands, as it were, with our decaying, sin-stained flesh, in order to reestablish it as a resurrection body and clothe it with immortality? Answer: Because his Son paid the price of death so that the Father’s purpose for the material universe would be fulfilled, namely, that he would be glorified in it, including in our bodies, forever and ever.

That’s what the text says: “You were bought with a price [the death of his Son]. So glorify God in your body.” God will not disregard or dishonor the work of his Son. God will honor the work of his Son by raising our bodies from the dead, and we will use our bodies to glorify him forever and ever.

That is why you have a body now. And that is why it will be raised to be like Christ’s glorious body.

## Pastoral Ministry: Just a Huckster – A.W.TOZER

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 3:13-14

Some young preacher will study until he has to get thick glasses to take care of his failing eyesight because he has an idea he wants to become a famous preacher. He wants to use Jesus Christ to make him a famous preacher. He's just a huckster buying and selling and getting gain. They will ordain him and he will be known as Reverend and if he writes a book, they will make him a doctor. And he will be known as Doctor; but he's still a huckster buying and selling and getting gain. And when the Lord comes back, He will drive him out of the temple along with the other cattle.

We can use the Lord for anything—or try to use Him. But what I'm preaching and what Paul taught and what was brought down through the years and what gave breath to the modern missionary movement that you and I know about and belong to was just the opposite: "O, God, we don't want anything You have, we want You." That's the cry of a soul on its way up. *"Lord, give us that hunger to know You; deliver us from the pride that makes us want to use You. Let me pray today with John, 'He must increase, but I must decrease.' Amen."*



## Highs and Lows – Joni Eraekson Tada

"After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them."

Mark 9:2

"Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping."

Mark 14:37a

Does it mystify you that one day you can be on top of the world, in love with the Lord, soaring in His Spirit, having faith to see far into eternity, and the next day, you go splat? You find yourself rock bottom, your faith dried up, and your spirit as dull as dishwater.

It happens to you and it happens to me. And it happened to the Lord's three best friends, Peter, James, and John. In Mark 9, they are on the Mount of Transfiguration. They get an up-close-and-personal snow-blinded look at the dazzling glory of the Lord as He reveals Himself in a way He never had before. They drop to their knees, jaws agape, dumb-struck with wonder. What ecstasy!

Now, you would think that experience would carry the disciples for years to come. But a short time later in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus revealed another part of Himself. He showed them how deeply distressed and troubled He was. You know what happened next: Peter, James, and John yawned, then hit rock bottom. All that spiritual get-up-and-go got up and went.

We are no better than they. We rise to some new level of spirituality and commit ourselves to a fresh allegiance to the Savior. Then we are bewildered at the depths to which we fall almost the next day.

Your spiritual life must not hinge on your commitment to Christ. That only sets you up for defeat. Rather, glory in His commitment to you. Daily come to Him in spiritual want and leanness. Acknowledge moment-by-moment that He is the one whose arms are underneath you as you rise to the mountaintop, and He is the one who preserves you as you descend the other side.

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your sustaining power and everlasting arms that I can lean on.