

He who has God and everything else has no more than he who has God only. – C. S. Lewis

If someone were to ask me, "What are the most important things you have learned," my reply would be:

- God is more holy than I ever thought.
- I am more sinful than I ever feared.
- I am loved beyond all that I know. Author unknown

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 LXXXVIII. What is the duty and privilege of those who are rightly baptized?

Answer. It is the duty and privilege of those who are rightly baptized to give up themselves to some orderly church of Jesus Christ, that they may walk, in all the commandments of Christ their Head.

Psa. 66.16; Mal. 3.16; Jn. 14.15; Acts 2.38-47; 1 Cor. 12.12-31; Eph. 1.23 & 4.1-7,30-32.

Question LXXXIX. What is the Lord's Supper?

Answer. The Lord's Supper is an Ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ, wherein, by partaking of bread and wine, by faith in Christ, the worthy receivers do set forth the broken body and the shedding of the blood of Jesus as their meat indeed and their drink indeed; and as oft as they do it they show forth His death till He come.

Matt. 26.26-30; Mark 14.22-25; Luke 22.15-20; 1 Cor. 5.7 & 10.16-17 & 11.23-27.

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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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ULTIMATE FAITH

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. Job 13:15

C. H. Spurgeon, along with many, considered this to be one of the greatest texts of the Bible. Their thought seems justified in that this cry is made in the most abject of circumstances. In the midst of misery and accusation, there is a certain deferring to God that defies human explanation. And, it rises up in stark contrast to the typical considerations of faith.

Some suggest a different rendering of these words. Typical of these is given in the Keil & Delitzsch Commentary as follows: “Behold, He slayeth me – I wait for Him: I will only prove my way before Him.” Under the circumstances it would seem that Job did indeed believe that his ordeal would result in his death at the hand of God. Waiting would be consistent with “trusting.” In the midst of it all the confidence that Job had in God would prove that his way was before God.

In any approach to faith in Scripture one is immediately overwhelmed by the vast number of references and implications of the essential place and nature of faith in salvation. We are quickly reminded of: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.* The writer of Hebrews tells us that it is essential to pleasing God. *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.* Was Job’s faith any different? The means of faith is often vindicated in the words of our Lord. It is evident

in all this that true faith will always distinguish itself and that to the glory of God.

We have termed the faith of Job as ultimate. We do so advisedly in that faith is of God and is therefore pure. Perhaps, we should think in terms of ultimate or most extreme circumstances where faith comes to be preciously manifested. We do see degrees assigned to faith. The woman of Canaan that came to the Lord concerning her daughter was told by the Lord, “Great is thy faith.” A similar assessment was made of the faith of a Roman Centurion who came to the Lord concerning a servant. On the other hand our Lord severely chided the disciples by addressing them as “ye of little faith.” The effectiveness of true faith was pointed to under the symbol of a mustard seed. Are there differing faiths or are there differing degrees to which the Lord is seen by that faith?

In that true faith is of the Lord and Spiritual in nature it is durable. Awareness and application of it may ebb and flow, but it is the gift of God and the “gifts and callings of God are without repentance.” So, in the midst of overwhelming adversity with Job it rose up to Heaven and acknowledged the grace, goodness and glory of God.

Was it not enough that Job had lost all his material possessions and his children? In the midst of that grief he acknowledged the right of the Lord to give and to take away and blessed the Name of the Lord. But, the satanic challenge to the grace of God continued and God allowed

him to be physically stricken in the most grievous manner. Now he is left in a most miserable estate with a carping wife and three legalistic friends. While we are given something of an outward description of Job's condition, we have no idea of the degree to which his body was afflicted or the pain he endured. This total loss of dignity was not enough. His three friends arrive to comfort him and do anything but console him. They rather launch an attack on his integrity that only served to intensify his misery. It is evident that Job did not understand why these things had come upon him. But, they were determined that Job was a hypocrite and tried to expose him. They offered some powerful arguments often appealing to the character of God and His hatred for sin. They could not believe that God would inflict such suffering without a cause in the sufferer.

In the midst of this assault Job's faith would bring him to acknowledge that man can never be just with God. But, he knew his own heart. His faith would assert the existence of his redeemer and the assurance that he would see him thus affirming the bodily resurrection. Many of Job's complaints were not born out of faith and would be subject to a later scolding from the Lord. But, in it all he knew his heart and

knew that he had lived his life before God – in faith. Many have joined Job's critics, but we must not overlook what the Lord declared concerning his faith and character from the beginning: *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Job 1:8.* These things were then and had been a matter of personal experience. His claim that he would maintain his own ways before was not an idle boast. He truly believed that what God had worked in him remained. In his weakness he complained, but then faith in trial proved to be most precious and most profound. He knew that his soul was secure with his redeemer and that knowledge would burst forth again and again. We are sweetly reminded: *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:7.*

We are all going to die and it will be under the circumstances and at the time of His appointing. Can we say with Job, "though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." *bhs*

"CHRIST would be the loser"

A SCOTCH minister tells the story of an aged saint who, on her dying bed, said that her Saviour would never leave her to perish. "But suppose that He did not keep His promise, and you were lost?" She answered, "He would be a greater loser than I." When asked what she meant, she answered, "It is true that I would lose my soul; but God would lose His honour and glory if He were not true." If we have trusted in God, and have come out of the Egypt of the world through His grace, and have left all our sins behind us, if we were left to die in the wilderness, the Lord Jesus Christ would lose His glory as a Saviour, the divine Father would lose His name for immutable faithfulness, and the Holy Ghost would lose His honour for perseverance in completing every work which He undertakes. The Lord God of Israel will never stain His glory, wherefore be confident that He who brought you out of Egypt, will bring you into Canaan.

C. H. Spurgeon

LOVE IN CHASTISEMENT

"As many as I love — I rebuke and chasten." — Revelation 3:19 Sorrowing Believer! what could you wish more than this? Your furnace is severe; but look at this assurance of Him who lit it. Love is the fuel that feeds its flames! Its every spark is love! It is kindled by your heavenly Father's hand — and designed as a pledge of His special love. How many of His dear children has He so rebuked and chastened; and all, all for one reason, "I love them!" The myriads in glory have passed through these furnace-fires — there they were chosen — there they were purified, sanctified, and made "vessels fit for the Master's use;" the dross and the alloy purged — that the pure metal might remain. And are you to claim exemption from the same discipline? Are you to think it strange concerning these same fiery trials that may be purifying you? Rather exult in them — as your adoption privilege. Do not envy those who are strangers to the refining flames — who are "without chastisement." You should surely rather have the severest discipline — with a Father's love; than the fullest earthly cup — without that Father's smile. Oh! for grace to say, when the furnace is hottest, and the rod sorest, "Yes, Father, for this was Your good pleasure!" And what, after all, is the severest of your chastisements, in comparison with what your sins have deserved? Do you murmur under a Father's correcting love? What would it have been to have stood the wrath of an un-propitiated Judge, and that, too, forever? Surely, in the light of eternity, the heaviest pang of earth — is indeed "a light affliction!" — John McDuff



WHEN IS A PERSON SAVED?

I am not interested in knowing the time, the day and hour, of your conversion or mine. It is not important. I am not interested in knowing the place where God's saving grace found you. That is of no significance. But it is important that we understand when a person is saved in this sense — WE MUST KNOW THOSE CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ALWAYS ACCOMPANY TRUE SALVATION. Of these things I am sure — A person is saved when it pleases God to save him. A person is saved when he bows to the authority and sovereign dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ. A person is saved when he justifies God in his own eternal condemnation. A person is saved when he sees the glory of God in the crucified Christ.

— Don Fortner, pastor in Danville, Kentucky, USA (Quoted by Daniel Parks)



"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" (John 19:30).

"O, dear reader, make no mistake on this point. The "finished work of Christ" avails you nothing if your heart has never been broken through an agonizing consciousness of your sinfulness. The "finished work of Christ" avails you nothing unless you have been saved from the power and pollution of sin (Matthew 1:21). It avails you nothing if you still love the world (I John 2:15). It avails you nothing unless you are a "new creature" in Him (2 Cor .5:17). If you value your soul, search the Scriptures to see for yourself; take no man's word for it." ~Arthur Pink, "It Is Finished"