

Consecration to God is nothing less than doing the will of Christ, rather than our own will--doing it always, whatever . . . the cost, the sacrifice, or the danger.

There is too much mere pretense in our religion. We say that we believe in Christ; but if we truly do, we must follow Him wherever He leads, though we don't know where. We say we love Christ, and from His lips comes the crucial test: "If you love Me--keep My commandments."

To be a Christian is to be devoted utterly, and irrevocably, to Christ!

"And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple!" Luke 14:27 – J. R. Miller

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 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.

Question XC. Who are the proper subjects of this ordinance?

Answer. They who have been quickened by the Spirit, called out of darkness into God's marvellous light, who have repented unto life, believed in Christ unto the salvation of the soul, been brought into sensible union with Christ and been baptized in His name.

Acts.2.41 & 11.18; 1Cor. 5.7-11 & 11.28; Eph. 2.1; Col. 2.6; 1 Pet. 2.9.

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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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EVEN SO

Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. Matthew 11:26

This simple acknowledgment by God the Son to God the Father has profound implications to us who believe in and rejoice in the sovereignty of God. Jesus speaks to the Father in the same manner that should be imitated in us. In this He deferred to the Father in ways that are important for us to understand. It is not that anything in the Son was ever at odds with the Father, but that we should see our substitute as totally submissive to the will, wisdom and purpose of God. We often look to the scriptures for examples as we would set forth the Gospel. The highest example of them all is Christ Jesus our Lord. *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 1 Peter 2:21.* He was acknowledging that something here was good and that it was good in “thy sight.”

In the account of this statement given in Luke 10 we are told that Our Lord said this at the return of the seventy disciples who were sent out by two’s on a missionary journey. They were extremely excited to report tremendous displays of the power of the Name of Jesus. Even the devils were subject to them in His Name. Yet, without dampening their excitement He called their attention to the essential reason for rejoicing – their names were written in Heaven. Such simple submission to His direction and teachings and the willing confession that the things that had happened were through Him did not go unnoticed or unacknowledged. To understand the essence of this simple, but

profound statement we note that for which He was thankful in the verse before: *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Matthew 11:25.*

In this we do not find it difficult to understand the divine reasoning. Had these things been revealed to the “wise and prudent” they would have no doubt claimed some merit as a result of their own abilities and accomplishments. It has ever been the design of God to assure that all receiving His blessings and being employed in His service would acknowledge Him as the only resource in all that they have and do. Paul declared this was well: *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 1 Corinthians 1:27.* In any of the schemes of men in religion we quickly note that room must be made to give themselves some credit. At that point it is no longer all of grace and God has no part in it. He would rather leave the “wise and prudent” to wonder that such grace could be manifested in the lives of “babes.”

So, our Lord, God the Son, would acknowledge the wisdom of God Father in the choice He made among men. The sovereignty of God is everywhere evident. *Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Romans 9:18.* But, we would note that this choice is one of design in

that “babes” have no illusions of greatness in themselves and delight to be the recipients of God’s mercy. We are sure there is more to the wisdom of God than that, but this much we are allowed to see.

He would further acknowledge that the purpose of God was good in that human endeavor is ruled out. The key word here is “revealed.” They were not excited because of what they figured out or by some conclusions they might have drawn. Paul acknowledged salvation as a matter of revelation. *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Galatians 1:15-16.* This thought is also realized in the Son in that it was of His sovereign will and purpose to reveal the Father to whomsoever He willed.

We would again emphasize that these things are preserved for us that we might likewise be able to “approve things that are excellent.” We see the excellence of the divine way declared here. We have noted that He deferred to the

Father with “Even so.” We cannot help but rejoice that He calls these things and all that the Father does good. *What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. Nahum 1:7.* But, we note something more. Our Lord adds, “in thy sight!” What is suggested here is that these things were found good under the searching eye of God Himself. This action would have to be discovered as pure as God Himself. Nothing He does could admit any hint of sin or impurity. There could be found there no leak wherein some of God’s glory might be claimed by man. There could be found no possibility that God’s plan and purpose could be faulty at last. There could be found only that which would be merited by the blood of Christ, risen with Him and empowered by our Blessed Holy Spirit. It must ultimately be to the Glory of God in Christ alone.

Are we able to look at whatever He does in our lives and say “Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.” *bhs*

. . . the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me —Galatians 2:20
We should battle through our moods, feelings, and emotions into absolute devotion to the Lord Jesus. We must break out of our own little world of experience into abandoned devotion to Him. Think who the New Testament says Jesus Christ is, and then think of the despicable meagerness of the miserable faith we exhibit by saying, “I haven’t had this experience or that experience”! Think what faith in Jesus Christ claims and provides— He can present us faultless before the throne of God, inexpressibly pure, absolutely righteous, and profoundly justified. Stand in absolute adoring faith “in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God— and righteousness and sanctification and redemption . . .” (1 Corinthians 1:30). How dare we talk of making a sacrifice for the Son of God! We are saved from hell and total destruction, and then we talk about making sacrifices!

We must continually focus and firmly place our faith in Jesus Christ— not a “prayer meeting” Jesus Christ, or a “book” Jesus Christ, but the New Testament Jesus Christ, who is God Incarnate, and who ought to strike us dead at His feet. Our faith must be in the One from whom our salvation springs. Jesus Christ wants our absolute, unrestrained devotion to Himself. We can never experience Jesus Christ, or selfishly

bind Him in the confines of our own hearts. Our faith must be built on strong determined confidence in Him.

It is because of our trusting in experience that we see the steadfast impatience of the Holy Spirit against unbelief. All of our fears are sinful, and we create our own fears by refusing to nourish ourselves in our faith. How can anyone who is identified with Jesus Christ suffer from doubt or fear! Our lives should be an absolute hymn of praise resulting from perfect, irrepressible, triumphant belief. Oswald Chambers



THE LORD ACCEPTED ME!

I hear some folks boast “I accepted the Lord!”

Their statement suits manmade religion and its “lord” in need of acceptance.

But it is contrary to God’s Word. No preacher in God’s Word ever told his hearers “Accept the Lord.” No saint in God’s Word is ever recorded saying “I accepted the Lord.” In God’s Word, the Lord is the acceptor of man (as in Genesis 4:7), but man is not the acceptor of the Lord. For example, we read that “the LORD had accepted Job” (Job 42:9; cp. v.8), but not that “Job accepted the LORD.”

This is true because acceptance is the act of the greater to the lesser, not of the lesser to the greater. When one says “I accepted the Lord” he indicates that he is greater than the Lord, and lord of the Lord, and that the Lord Jesus Christ is not the “Lord of lords” and “Lord of all”.

The child of God speaks differently – “The Lord accepted me!”

First, “The Lord accepted me” in His eternal decree for my salvation. All the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus are assured that, before the foundation of the world, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ chose us in Christ in order that we might be holy and blameless before Him in love, then highly favored us to be made “accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:1-6). Therefore, “The Lord accepted me!”

Second, “The Lord accepted me” in my conversion. The Holy Spirit declares that “in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:35). I feared Him when I by His grace began to worship Him. I worked righteousness when I by grace repented of my sins and trusted in Him for my salvation. When I did so, in His sovereign grace “The Lord accepted me!”

Therefore, believers in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ must not boast “I accepted the Lord!” Rather, we confess “The Lord accepted me!”

Will the Lord accept you? Or will you instead reject Him and accept some other lord?
– Daniel E. Parks



God did not save Noah on account of the labor and expense he was at in building the ark. Noah’s salvation from the flood was an instance of the free and distinguishing mercy of God. Nor did God stand in need of Noah’s care, or cost, or labor, to build an ark. The same power which created the world, and which brought the flood of waters upon the earth, could have made the ark in an instant, without any care or cost to Noah, or any of the labor of those workmen who were employed for so long a time. Yet God was pleased to appoint, that Noah should be saved in this way. So God hath appointed that man should not be saved without his undertaking and doing this work of which I have been speaking; and therefore we are commanded “to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling,” Philip. ii. 12.

Jonathan Edwards