

A sermon is 'powerless in the renewal of a soul...if unaccompanied by the omnipotent energy of the Holy Ghost.' - Henry C. Fish

Preach the word be instant in season and out of season! What a solemn task we have today. May our God be with us and enable us by the blessed Spirit of God.

B. H. Carroll said, "I have felt shame, sorrow, and contempt, all blended, at some things I have heard from the pulpit. They are nice enough little things, but nothing from the Word of God, nothing to convict a sinner, nothing to lead a sinner to Christ, nothing to lead a babe in Christ to maturity in Christian knowledge, nothing to develop high, holy, and enduring Christian character. Preaching is a solemn work." Ron Rumburg

### 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 XCI. What must God's people expect when they transgress the law of Christ?

Answer. God has declared He will visit their transgressions with the rod, and their iniquities with stripes; therefore they must expect fatherly chastisement.

Psa. 89.30-33; Isa. 26.16; Jer. 31.18-20; Mic. 7.9; Heb. 12.5-13.

Question XCII. Can God's people ever perish everlastingly?

Answer. No; for they shall never perish; but, in spite of sin, Satan, the world and the flesh, shall have everlasting life; for their life is hid with Christ in God, and because He lives, they shall live also.

Jn. 3.14-16 & 10.28-29 & 14.19 & 17.24; Col. 3.3; 1 Pet. 1.5.

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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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### KEPT FOR OUR SPECIAL INHERITANCE

*To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:4-5*

Earthly inheritances are fleeting at best. Yet, many anxiously await the reading of a will in which they expect to have an interest. They are anxious for their names to be called and their inheritance to be spelled out. Their joy is short lived at best in that either they or the inheritance soon fade away. The inheritance may have lost its value since the writing of the will. Or, the death of the testator came later so that they no longer have health or length of days to enjoy it. In fact, sometimes the heir dies first and the intended inheritance never occurs.

In this passage we are given a twofold assurance with regard to the most wonderful inheritance. There can be no devaluation of the inheritance and the intended heirs are kept in perfect fitness to receive the fullness of the inheritance at the appointed time. We are reminded of the claim of Caleb who waited over forty years for his inheritance in the Land. When the time came he asserted: *As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Joshua 14:11.*

Peter begins this epistle written to persecuted Christians with a powerful declaration of hope. In verse 2, they are identified as the chosen people of God who have been brought to a way of obedience through the sanctification of the Spirit and the full realization of salvation by the blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. Furthermore, they had been

brought to experience a lively hope by the resurrection of the Jesus Christ from the dead. They were not participants in a dead religion, they were living the resurrected life of Christ – a lively hope! And so Peter’s opening theme continues on an eternally positive note before he addresses the problem of their trials. What he was about to impress upon them was that they were to look beyond and above their present tribulation.

What is this inheritance we are promised? Men like to place a value on what they are expecting. Yet, we are never told in terms of the things of this present world. What we do learn is that it is to be had in Heaven. We would remember the words of Paul: *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. Romans 8:17.* If we can conceive of the glory that is Christ’s and the blissful situation of life forever with Him we might catch a glimpse. Indeed we are given such a glimpse through the Holy Spirit: *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:14.* We are limited by this earthly frame and the hindrances of an old nature. The work of Satan is to attempt to distract our attention away from this glorious hope. The original creation was declared to be very good. The New Heavens and New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness must be infinitely better. The Kingdom is Christ’s and we

are coheirs with Him.

Thus, we are assured that this inheritance is incorruptible. That is, it is free from the germs of death in its creation and will never be subject to those things. It is undefiled. It is in and of itself holy and pure. No sinful defilement can find a place of residence there. "...nor will it be possessed by any but undefiled persons, such as are made so through the blood of Christ..." John Gill. And, this inheritance does not fade away. The luster shall never fade. The desire for it shall never lessen. And, the enjoyment of it shall ever remain fresh and exciting. In that Christ is in the midst of it all the affections of true believers are ever drawn toward this promised inheritance. The text is personal and particular. It is reserved in Heaven "for you!"

No doubt, these suffering saints had doubts as to whether they could ever survive to receive these things. The enemy was violent and determined. Yet, Peter would keep the pressure on to look to the future with hope and anticipation. It is certain that none of us could ever keep ourselves in the way with the Lord. *Now unto him that is able to keep you from*

*falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy... Jude 1:24.* This assurance here is that we are kept by the power of God (or as some have it "in the power of God"). The meaning is that we are those "who are being guarded." It is certain that we are the beneficiaries of the providence of God. We are outwardly protected by He who does all things after the counsel of His own will. But the fact that we are kept by the power of God through faith with a look to the finishing of our salvation gives even greater assurance.

It is ready to be revealed. That is Christ has completed all that is required to bring His people into the fullness of His glory. When it is revealed there will be nothing remaining. This is the end result of that work in us which began with the New Birth and will end with the removal of the last hindrances. This is that which we expect at the last time. Salvation is already accomplished in every way. We only wait the Lord's time to be manifested. *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Titus 2:13. bhs*

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All our afflictions are appointed by our loving heavenly Father!  
(Arthur Pink)

"I was silent; I would not open my mouth, for You are the one who has done this!"  
Psalm 39:9

Realizing that it was the chastening hand of God upon him, David refrained from murmuring. It was not the silence of sullenness, but of meekly acquiescing to the rod. When we are in our right minds, we shall have nothing to object against God's dealings with us, or dispute with them. God is sovereign in the acts of His providence--and therefore an important branch of our obedience unto Him lies in suffering His will, as well as in doing His will. That obedience is evidenced by refusing to repine against Him by the utterance of any impatient words.

Shall vile dust and ashes censure the providential dealings of the Most High God, or impugn His goodness? Let all God's treatment of us be both wondrous and righteous in our eyes.

"If our hope is in God for a happiness in the eternal world--then we can well afford to reconcile ourselves to all the dispensations of Divine providence concerning this world."  
(Matthew Henry)

The consideration that all our afflictions are appointed by our loving heavenly Father, should silence all complaints. It did so with David. He knew they came not by chance, but according to divine appointment.

After months of acute suffering, and still in agony of body, the last words of John Calvin were, "Lord, You grind me to powder, but it suffices me because it is Your hand."

"God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it!" Hebrews 12:10-11



### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

It is not enough that we go to Church and hear sermons. We may do so for fifty years, and be nothing better, but rather worse. "Take heed," says our Lord, "how you hear." Would any one know how to hear properly? Then let them lay to heart three simple rules.

1) We must hear with FAITH, believing implicitly that every word of God is true, and shall stand. The word in old time did not profit the Jews, since it was "not mixed with faith in those who heard it" (Heb. 4:2).

2) We must hear with REVERENCE, remembering constantly that the Bible is the book of God. This was the habit of the Thessalonians. They received Paul's message, "not as the word of men, but the word of God" (1 Thess. 2:13).

3) We must hear with PRAYER, praying for God's blessing before the sermon is preached, praying for God's blessing again when the sermon is over. Here lies the grand defect of the hearing of many. They ask no blessing, and so they have none. The sermon passes through their minds like water through a leaky vessel, and leaves nothing behind.

► Summary:

Let us bear these rules in mind every Sunday morning, before we go to hear the Word of God preached. Let us not rush into God's presence careless, reckless, and unprepared, as if it mattered not in what way such work was done. Let us carry with us faith, reverence, and prayer. If these three are our companions, we will hear with profit, and return with praise.

~ J.C. Ryle

CONVERSION—remarkable! THERE was one who went to hear Mr. Whitefield—a member of the "Hell-fire Club," a desperate fellow. He stood up at the next meeting of his abominable associates, and he delivered Mr. Whitefield's sermon with wonderful accuracy, imitating his very tone and manner. In the middle of his exhortation he converted himself, and came to a sudden pause, sat down broken-hearted, and confessed the power of the gospel. That club was dissolved. That remarkable convert was Mr. Thorpe, of Bristol, whom God so greatly used afterwards in the salvation of others. I would rather have you read the Bible to mock at it than not read it at all. I would rather that you came to hear the Word of God out of hatred to it than that you never came at all. Charles Spurgeon