

"It costs something to be a real Christian, according to the standard of the Bible. There are enemies to be overcome, battles to be fought, sacrifices to be made, an Egypt to be forsaken, a wilderness to be passed through, a cross to be carried, a race to be run. Conversion is not putting a person in an arm-chair and taking them easily to heaven. It is the beginning of a mighty conflict, in which it costs much to win the victory." ~ 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 XCVIII. What has God said shall take place with the elect in this life?

Answer. God has declared that they shall be born again, not of corruptible but of incorruptible seed, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever; and that He will put His laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts, and He will be their God, and they shall be His people.

Jer. 31.31-34; Ezek. 36.25-27; 1 Pet. 1.23-25.

Question XCIX. Are the elect able to do this for themselves?

Answer. No; for it is the Spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing.

Jn. 3.1-8,27 & 6.29,63.

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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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### AN IMMOVEABLE KINGDOM

*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29*

Among the things Satan offered Christ during the temptation in the wilderness were the kingdoms of this world. Yet, these are they which in the end shall be His. *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11:15.* Even so, the kingdoms of this world are characterized by instability. We are inundated by the news of upheaval, conflict, and turmoil among nations and within nations. Even in our own country, which has endured far longer than most, the signs of decay and decline are evident. Our government is in disarray; our people are given to immorality and even those who are not are apathetic with respect to our nation's future. What a comforting statement is here brought to the attention of those whose hope and trust is registered in Christ alone in the promises of God that are “in Him yea and in him amen.”

The writer had just described in the previous verses those things which can be shaken including the earth itself. That which caused it to be shaken was the voice of the Lord himself. The ultimate result would be the removal of those things which can be shaken. The purpose would be that those things which cannot be shaken would remain. And thus, the writer begins, to describe a most blessed process in the life of the true believer. We are receiving a Kingdom which cannot be moved. Our attention is quickly

drawn to Kingdom concepts in the ministry of Christ Jesus our Lord: *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 3:2.* It was certainly not the intent of the Lord Jesus Christ that the full Revelation of His eternal kingdom was at hand. Rather, He was declared to be King and He was not a King without a kingdom. In teaching His disciples to pray, the kingdom and its characteristics were sought after. *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10.* If, indeed, Christ is King then His kingdom can no more be moved than can He.

The conditions we see about us suggest anything but The Kingdom of Heaven. As we look into our hearts, however, we see quite another scene. We realize that Christ does indeed now rule and reign not only in the hearts of his people but also the whole of creation. We have been made a kingdom of priests and a Holy Nation. We have been given the right of access unto the very throne of God. We have been declared to be coheirs with Christ. Even though we see through a glass darkly, we are enabled to “see Jesus.” Christ told Nicodemus that the new birth was essential to seeing and entering the kingdom. In this sense we understand that we are, as a result of the new birth, seeing and entering even now. He is our King and we are His subjects. An eternity of dwelling with Christ in His kingdom awaits those who love His appearing, but as we grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus

Christ we are even now receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved.

Thus the writer exhorts "...let us have grace..." While thankfulness is certainly implied in what is said here, there is much more to consider. The end result of such grace is the service of God in an acceptable manner. The possession of this kingdom is certainly blessedness above measure. True believers exhibit a life of continuous Thanksgiving. But, the exhortation is to the availing of that grace provided in salvation. Paul wrote to Timothy that he should "lay hold on eternal life." Part of the kingdom privilege is the ability to claim and embrace life in the Kingdom. We are a people delivered with purpose: *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: Colossians 1:13.* That purpose is provided for us in the Gospel of God's free and sovereign grace. Christ did not die to merely claim us as impotent trophies. He redeemed us to serve. Such service would be in an acceptable manner and would come from the God of all grace. *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 1 Peter 5:10.*

How can fallen man be raised up out of the depths of sin and depravity and ever do anything that is acceptable to God? The answer is simple -- in Christ. Only of Him was it said "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." We are further taught that faith is essential: *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.* The question has never been about one accepting Christ; it is rather of whether God would accept us. There will be reverence as one beholds the Majesty of God and does so with a realization of the sinful condition from which we have been saved. Likewise, springing from the grace of God is the discovery of all that is true of God resulting in delightfully proper worship.

With all the blessedness that we see concerning this kingdom that we are receiving, we are reminded of the fact that our God is unchangeable. That which was said of him in the Old Testament remains true. He is a consuming fire. This is not added as a threat. It is rather that we should have a greater appreciation of the grace of God as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
*bhs*

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### THE NORMAL EMPLOYMENT OF MORAL BEINGS

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. —Revelation 4:10-11 All of the examples that we have in the Bible illustrate that glad and devoted and reverent worship is the normal employment of moral beings. Every glimpse that is given us of heaven and of God's created beings is always a glimpse of worship and rejoicing and praise because God is who He is. The apostle John in Revelation 4:10-11 gives us a plain portrayal of created beings around the throne of God.... I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven. Lord, please don't let me ever become bored with worship! I pray that You might enhance my vision of Your glory and draw me into heartfelt worship. Amen. A. W. Tozer

## THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD

Near the end of his ministry, Spurgeon witnessed churches resorting to carnal means to attract crowds for evangelism. The pulpit was replaced with a stage and the sermon with amusement. With this worldly infiltration, biblical truth was diluted, and there was a severe loss of power in evangelistic preaching. Sensing the urgency, Spurgeon declared: “Everywhere there is apathy. Nobody cares whether that which is preached is true or false. A sermon is a sermon whatever the subject; only, the shorter it is the better.”<sup>44</sup> But Spurgeon refused to cave in or compromise. He remained consumed with a singular passion for biblical truth. Though the day clamored for soothing thoughts, Spurgeon called for sharp-edged truths: “God is my witness—I have eschewed every idea of trying to be eloquent or oratorical in my preaching. I care nothing whatever about the gaudy show of speechmaking. I only want just to tell you these truths in unvarnished speech.”<sup>45</sup> Though the gospel itself was being subverted, threatening the genuineness of conversions, Spurgeon held fast to the simple preaching of divine truth and witnessed countless new births. Taken from:

Steven Lawson, *The Gospel Focus of C. H. Spurgeon*



## THE PROMISE REVERSED

Gurnall wrote, “Prayer is nothing but the promise reversed, or God’s Word formed into an argument, and retorted by faith upon God again.”<sup>[46]</sup> So we use Scripture in order to pray truthfully, confidently, and joyfully. This will increase your faith, as Gurnall also wrote: Furnish thyself with arguments from the promises to enforce thy prayers, and make them prevalent with God. The promises are the ground of faith, and faith, when strengthened, will make thee fervent, and such fervency ever speeds and returns with victory out of the field of prayer. . . . The mightier any is in the Word, the more mighty he will be in prayer. <sup>[47]</sup> Above all that you ask, pray for the fullness of the Spirit. It is tragic that most prayers focus on physical blessings, especially when most of God’s promises focus on spiritual blessings. Pray as Jesus taught us in Luke 11:11–13: If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? The Holy Spirit, experienced through the discipline of prayer, is the daily food we need more than bread and meat. Joel Beeke



## DELIVERANCE TRUST

YEARS ago the Mentonese desired to break away from the dominion of the Prince of Monaco. They therefore drove out his agent. The Prince came with his army, not a very great one, it is true, but still formidable to the Mentonese. I know not what the high and mighty princeling was not going to do; but the news came that the King of Sardinia was coming up in the rear to help the Mentonese, and therefore his lordship of Monaco very prudently retired to his own rock. When a believer stands out against evil he may be sure that the Lord of hosts will not be far away. The enemy shall hear the dash of His horse-hoof and the blast of His trumpet, and shall flee before Him. Wherefore be of good courage, and compel the world to say of you, “He trusted in the Lord that He would deliver him.” Spurgeon