

"As the result of Adam's sin, man was separated from God, and all of Adam's descendants enter this world "alienated from the life of God." (Eph. 4:18) There is a great gulf between the thrice holy God and the sinful creature which none but Christ can bridge. The sinner is away from God in his heart, in his thoughts, in his ways. How much this explains! This explains the general neglect among men of the Bible. Impelled by an uneasy conscience many will read a chapter in the Bible now and again, but that is all, and the real reason for this is because the Bible brings man into the presence of God, and that is the very last thing the natural man desires. What a proof is this, then, that he is in "the far country"; that at heart he is away from the Father!"~Arthur Pink, "The Prodigal Son"

#### 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 C. Are not a circumspect walk and a sound creed sufficient evidences of Christianity?

Answer. No; for men may be beautiful without, and be but as whited sepulchres; and may profess a sound creed, but never feel its power, nor receive the truth in the love of it.

Matt. 15.8-9 & 23.23-28; Rom. 2.28-29; Phil. 3.4-7,18; 2 Thess. 2.10; 2 Tim. 3.5.

Question CI. Where must a poor sinner flee for refuge from wrath, sin and the law?

Answer. Jesus Christ is the only refuge from the storm and the only foundation for a poor sinner to build his hopes upon.

Deut. 33.27; Psa. 46.1,11 & 62.5-8 & 94.22; Isa. 4.6 & 25.4 & 28.16 & 32.2; 1 Cor. 3.11; Heb. 6.18.

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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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### A WILLING PEOPLE

*Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. Psalms 110:3*

A wise old evangelist (B. B. Caldwell) once said, “God has fixed it up so that a man can have exactly what he wants.” The statement was made in the course of a sermon on the sovereignty of God. This is an interesting statement as we consider the debate over “free will.” None have ever come to Christ who did not desire to come. Experience and scripture teach us that all those who do come to Christ want to come and are desperate to do so. None of those truly coming to Christ believe that their willingness somehow merited salvation or influenced God to save them. It is certainly not an exercise of will that allows God to save as is implied by those whose cry is “let God save you.” Such is illogical and more importantly unscriptural. It would seem that proud men are more interested in preserving the sovereignty of their own wills than to bow to the sovereign mercy of God. *Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Romans 9:18.*

Returning to old Brother Caldwell’s statement we might reflect on how such could be if God is indeed fully independent of the will of men. The answer is understood in this way. Man’s will is free within the confines of his own nature. The nature of fallen man is to sin and will never allow any genuine effort to be delivered from that way of life, let alone the guilt and penalty of their sin. Paul called those so inclined “servants” or literally “slaves” of sin. They are given what they choose – death. No

free will there. Likewise, those born again of the Spirit of God, made partakers of the divine nature and having totally been made new creatures in Christ desire to be with Christ, like Christ and as far removed from sin as possible. Their service to God is willing indeed.

What then is the “day of His power?” Has there ever been a day in which Christ was not all powerful? He is the eternal Son of God and God the Son. He is the creator and He alone is the redeemer God. Of what then does David speak? Is it perhaps the day of His incarnation, His entrance into His earthly ministry or the day of manifesting the Gospel as the power of God unto salvation? It is any day in which He has declared Himself and manifested this authority over all. *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8.*

When the first disciples were called to be “fishers of men,” they did not ask permission of their earthly father nor did they confer among themselves. They left their nets and followed Him. There was neither a time of persuasion nor invitation given. They were willing and they followed Him. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 10:27.* So it has been the case and ever shall be that those quickened by the Holy Spirit are immediately willing to be the “slaves” of Christ. We are ever reminded of: *For it is God which worketh in you*

*both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13.* Repentance toward God is a necessity. Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is a necessity. Both conditions are met because God has imparted to them a new nature and they know of no other way to act or respond to our gracious Lord. Neither repentance nor faith saves. Jesus saves and that without our aid. Men love the thoughts of the power of God over nature and even perhaps over the devil himself. It is the thought that it takes the creating power of God alone to bring one from death to life and from darkness to light that so greatly offends them.

This Psalm begins with a powerful declaration of the sovereignty of Christ. It would be unseemly that such a One would come forth dragging His subjects along or beating them into submission. Rather we find them here as a willing people. The words suggest an army. One commentator called them "soldier Priests." They are described as being in the "beauties of holiness." They are clothed as it were in the righteousness of Christ. They are the new born and go with a certain freshness about them. They are not only conscious of new mercies every morning, but they experience the effects

and provisions thereof. Their willingness suggests that they freely and delightfully offer up the acceptable sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. They are those who take up their cross daily. They are willing sacrifices in their service to Him. They follow the Captain of their salvation wherever He leads. They are the committed servants of their sovereign Lord.

We preach the Gospel to all with the hope that we shall see the power of God manifested to some. We find great confidence in passages such as this. We look for those begotten by the Word of Truth by the will of God. We are assured that the Lord Jesus Christ has a people and they are identified by their willingness. They have been made so by His power and through no effort of their own. They shall be the willing offerings of themselves unto God in all their ways. They are the subjects of His delight and they will be brought to appear before Him in great beauty. They will be eternally young and fresh in Christ the Lord. It is for just such a people that Christ died, rose again and ascended with the certification of eternal life for all them that love His appearing. It is the day of His power and His people are willing. *bhs*

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"God won't force a man into heaven that don't seek to go to there. He won't bestow salvation upon them that don't think it worth a praying for and inquiry after. If men choose the world for their portion, and take greater care for earthly riches, and pleasures, and diversions than they do for justification and eternal life; God will give them that which they mind most." Jonathan Edwards (from the sermon: "A Possibility of being Saved is Much Preferred to a Certainty of Perishing")

#### A PLACE CALLED HELL

There is such a place as hell. Let no one deceive you with vain words. What people do not like, they try hard not to believe. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to judge the world, He will punish all who are not His disciples with a fearful punishment: all who are found unrepentant and unbelieving, all who have clung to sin, all who are stuck to the world, and all who have set their affections on things below. All who are without Christ shall come to an awful end. Whosoever is not written in the book of life shall be "cast into the lake of fire." [Rev 20:15]

I call on all who profess to believe the Bible, to be on their guard.

1) Some do not believe there is any hell at all. They think it impossible there can be such a place. They call it inconsistent with the mercy of God. They say it is too awful an idea to be really true. The devil of course, rejoices in the views of such people. They help his kingdom mightily. They are preaching up his old favorite doctrine, "You shall not surely die."

2) Some do not believe that hell is eternal. They tell us it is incredible that a compassionate God will punish people forever. He will surely open the prison doors at last. This also is a mighty help to the devil's cause.

3) Some believe there is a hell, but never allow that anybody is going there. All people with them are good. As soon as they die, all were sincere, all meant well, and all, they hope, got to heaven. Alas! what a common delusion this is!

Summary: If I never spoke of hell, I should think I had kept back something that was profitable, and should look on myself as an accomplice of the devil. Beware of new and strange doctrines about hell and the eternity of punishment. Beware of manufacturing a God of your own: a God who is all mercy, but not just; a God who is all love, but not holy; a God who has a heaven for everybody, but a hell for none; a God who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time, but will make no distinction between good and bad in eternity. Such a God is an idol of your own.

~ J.C. Ryle



### Accepting God's Provisions

*Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. Hebrews 11:28-29*

When the time came for Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, everything on the human level said it couldn't be done. Pharaoh wasn't about to let two to three million slaves just pack up and leave. His formidable army was ready to insure that no such exodus occurred. But when God devises a plan, He always makes the necessary provisions for carrying it out. On this occasion, His provision came in the form of ten terrifying plagues designed to change Pharaoh's mind.

The tenth and worst plague was the death of all the first-born (Ex. 11:5). To protect themselves from this plague, the Israelites sprinkled the blood of a lamb on the doorposts and lintels of their homes. When the angel of death saw the blood, he passed over that house. Thus the Passover was instituted.

The blood from those first Passover lambs had no intrinsic power to stave off the death angel, but its presence demonstrated faith and obedience, thus symbolizing the future sacrifice of Christ (cf. John 1:29).

Pharaoh got the message and allowed the Israelites to leave. But soon afterward he changed his mind and commanded his army to pursue them. Again God intervened by parting the Red Sea, allowing His people to walk across on dry land. He then drowned the entire Egyptian army when it followed the Israelites into the sea.

That was a graphic demonstration of a lesson every believer must learn: God's provisions are always best. They may sometimes seem foolish to the human intellect--just as "the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:18)-- but the man or woman of faith trusts God and receives His provisions gratefully. John MacArthur