

"A man's conversion is nothing, his believing is nothing, his profession is nothing unless he is made to be a new creature in Christ Jesus... If our faith has not brought with it the Holy Spirit, if, indeed, it is not the fruit of the Spirit...then our faith is presumption, and our profession is a lie." - C. H. Spurgeon

**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 CVI. Do the prayers and offerings of the elect ascend to the Father, with acceptance, on the ground of their own goodness?

Answer. No; for Christ is the only way of access unto the Father; and the prayers and offerings of His people can only ascend to the Father with acceptance as they are offered up on Christ the altar, that sanctifieth both the gift and the giver; for the Father is well pleased with Him for His righteousness' sake.

Isa. 42.21; Jn. 17.19-20; Eph. 2.18; Heb. 4.14-16 & 7.24-28 & 10.10-12,19-22 & 13.10-15.

Question CVII. What does this teach the elect?

Answer. This teaches the elect that they are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ in all their approaches unto the Father, and to trust only in Him, and not in themselves.

Psa. 40.4 & 62.8 & 125.1; Rom. 13.14; Phil. 3.3; Heb. 4.14-16 & 7.24-27 & 10.19-22.

**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

Volume 7, No. 6

February 9, 2014

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### BLESSED IS THE MAN

*Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. Psalms 65:4*

The comforts and assurances given us by passages such as this are priceless. At best we are pilgrims and in a strange land and daily face the rigors of this life. But, even in the midst of the worst of trials the Lord graciously reminds us of the true state of our existence with Him, when we are enabled to sing in the storm and rejoice in the hour of extreme trial. The comforts of this world are fleeting at best, but there is a permanence in the comforts of God that tells us of their eternity and divine origin.

The word “blessed” is understood by true believers to mean happy. Delight in the Lord, His grace and His presence is ever the experience of those who walk with Him. The world does not understand such a characterization of the Lord’s relationship with His people in that they have only human relationships with which to compare. Any thoughts they have of God and His companionship are very low in comparison to that which is the way of true belief. The believer is blessed as he contemplates the person of Christ. He is happy in hearing of the graciousness of our God towards us in salvation. He increases in that happiness as the provisions of grace are multiplied to him. He delights at the prospects that lie ever before as He grows in the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus.

We would note three things from which this blessedness springs. We are blessed in those things over which we had neither control nor contribution. We would see those things which are experienced by the grace of God as we are

effectually brought to the very presence of God. And, we would take note of those things enjoyed by us as the absolute provision of grace. We first note that our blessedness had its origin in the sovereign choice of God. The Word of God bears record throughout that salvation is of the Lord in its initiation, its validation and its consummation. Put quite simply we were chosen to this blessedness because of the eternal love which fell upon us, not in time but, in eternity. It was the eternal design of God that those whom He “loved with an everlasting love” should experience grace and glory to the fullest alongside Him. It was not merely who He chose but what He chose for them that heightens our sense of blessedness as we learn of such things. These were brought to enjoy the walk of faith and not just any faith but that which is called the “faith of God’s elect.”

Sovereign grace continues in bringing those chosen to approach to God. Many claim that approaching unto God is an act of their own volition. But, the word here is that it is the Lord that causes the blessed man to approach. Even so we note the experience of those coming. These are first brought from death unto life by the sovereign work of the Spirit. It is then that they learn of the distance sin has placed between them and God. It is, likewise then they discover the undeniable necessity to get to Him and that mercy is their only hope. When they are graciously directed to “Behold the Lamb of God” the moving of the Spirit is truly irresistible.

They are then urged unerringly to embrace the wounds of Jesus and to know that He has availed through His own blood before the judge in their behalf and their pace quickens as they move toward Him with confidence. After all, they realize that He is bidding them come. . Boldness is provided and exercised and to a throne of grace he comes. What blessedness to everyone who has been so brought as they see themselves as “brands plucked from the fire.” The realization is that the mercy of a sovereign has prevailed.

The third thing we note is that God has designed that they should dwell with Him. David rejoiced at the prospect. *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Psalms 23:6.* John Gill wrote: “the man that is chosen of God, and brought nigh by Christ; he shall not only come into the house of God, and tread in his courts, but he shall dwell there, ever abide, and never go out...” It is not merely a place of provision but the house of the provider together with Him. It is there we dwell in safety. It is there we know the sweetness of the fellowship with the Lord and those made in His

image. It is there we discover a true sense of belonging. We who are chosen of Him and cause to approach are not visitors there. We are not merely guests. We are family and are of the household of God. There is no discord in such existence because they who dwell in the house of the Lord have in common the Love of the Lord and the desire that all honor and glory be unto Him.

Even further undeserved blessedness is found in that we are satisfied with the goodness of His house. Many spend their lives searching for that which satisfies. Any satisfaction with the things of this world is short-lived at best. But, in the house of the Lord there is growing satisfaction. Many have expressed the idea that some particular form of religion is “good enough for them.” Not so with Christ! We follow on to know and we grow in His grace and His knowledge and with each compounding of Grace we find ourselves even more satisfied. *They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. Psalms 36:8.*  
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### “The Faith of God’s Elect”

Titus 1:1

There are many who have faith who do not have “the faith of God’s elect.” Theirs’ is a faith like what James describes as the faith of devils, a mere factual, mental faith, a faith which will only increase their guilt at the bar of God. In the light of that fact, we ought to constantly bring our faith to the touchstone of Holy Scripture and prove it. We ought to ask ourselves, as we read the Book of God, “Do I have the faith of God’s elect?”

### The Gift of God

True faith is the gift of God. It is not merely a logical or emotional decision, though it is both logical and emotional. It is much more. Saving faith is created in the heart by the power of God the Holy Spirit. It is the gift of almighty grace. We “believe according to the working of his mighty power” (Ephesians 1: 19). We are united to Christ “through the faith of the operation of God” (Colossians 2:12). God alone can create faith in the heart of a sinner. God alone gives men faith. And he does it through the preaching of the gospel, by which Christ is revealed in the heart (Romans 10:17; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23-25).

## One Object

True saving faith is concerned with but one thing, the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you believe on the Son of God? That is the one issue which is of eternal importance. “What think ye of Christ?” Nothing else really matters. True faith is taking God at his Word. It is believing what God says about his Son. It is submitting to the revelation of God in the Scriptures. It is trusting, believing, receiving Christ as he is revealed in Holy Scripture. — “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God ... He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:1, 12). Yet, saving faith is much more than mental assent to the truth of divine revelation. The Puritan, John Owen, wrote, “Of all the poison which at this day is diffused in the minds of men, corrupting them from the mystery of the gospel, there is no part that is more pernicious than this one perverse imagination, that to believe in Christ is nothing at all but to believe the doctrine of the gospel!

## Heart Work

Saving faith is a work of the heart (Romans 10:9-10). True faith is the willful, deliberate, voluntary confidence of my heart in the power and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is trusting the merits of his blood and righteousness as my only basis of acceptance before God. This faith in Christ involves the surrender of my heart to him as my Lord. True faith is the bowing and submission of my very life to the Son of God as my Lord (Luke 14:25-33).

## Persevering

True faith, the faith of God’s elect is persevering faith (Hebrews 3:6, 14). That is to say, if a person truly believes on Christ, he will continue to believe on Christ. Faith is not an event in life. It is the believer’s way of life. — “The just shall live by faith” (Galatians 3:11). The true believer never ceases to live by faith in Christ. God’s elect begin in faith, live in faith, and die in faith (Hebrews 11:13). True faith never quits. It is not the man who begins the race who wins the prize, but the one who finishes the race. Don Fortner



## DISTURB THE COMFORTABLE AND COMFORT THE DISTURBED

God tells His preachers to “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” (Isaiah 40:1). If they need to be comforted, it must be because they are disturbed. But God’s people were comfortable before they were disturbed. They were comfortable in themselves and in their own righteousness and holiness.

What disturbs the comfortable? The preaching of the gospel! It exposes us as sinners devoid of righteousness and holiness, and therefore completely unacceptable to God.

What comforts the disturbed? The same preaching of the gospel! It declares Jesus to be the Savior of sinners, and promises His righteousness and holiness to believers in Him, and assures them that through Christ alone they will be acceptable to God.

Therefore, God sends His preachers with His gospel to both disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed.

– Daniel E. Parks