

The choicest, sweetest, wisest, and strongest Christian!
(Thomas Brooks)

Remember that it is not hasty reading--but serious meditation on holy and heavenly truths, which makes them prove sweet and profitable to the soul.
It is not the mere touching of the flower by the bee which gathers honey--but her abiding for a time on the flower which draws out the sweet.
It is not he who reads most, but he who meditates most--who will prove to be the choicest, sweetest, wisest, and strongest Christian!

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 CVIII. What will become of believers at their death?

Answer. The souls of believers, at their death, shall enter into immortal glory and be with Christ, which is far better; and their bodies shall rest in their graves till the resurrection.

Luke 16.22 & 23.43; 1 Cor. 15; 2 Cor. 5.6-10; Phil. 1.23; 1 Thess. 4.13-18.

Question CIX. What will become of believers at the resurrection?

Answer. At the resurrection the bodies of believers shall be raised like unto the glorious body of Christ, their Head, and soul and body be for ever with the Lord in that eternal kingdom of felicity which God has prepared for them, where they shall see as they are seen, and know as they are known; and with one immortal tongue sing to the glory of rich, free and sovereign grace, for ever and ever. Amen.

Job 19.25-27; Psa. 17.15; Isa. 25.8 & 26.19; Dan. 12.2; Hos. 13.14; Jn. 5.28-29; 1 Cor. 13.12; 1 Cor. 15; Phil. 3.20-21; 1 Thess. 4.13-18; 1 Jn. 3.1-2; Rev. 5.13-14 & 7.9-17 & 14.1-5.

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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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BE STILL AND KNOW

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalms 46:10

What marvelous instruction is here addressed to the faith of God's people and how blessed is the outcome to those who discover the grace to comply with it. And yet, how difficult it is to truly be still and to know in such a way as to both undergird and inform as to the reason of such a state. The invitation is given in the verses before to come and observe what the Lord has done in bringing about the desolation of the enemy. It is fully in His power to end wars. The ideas of men are to negotiate and compromise with the hope of bringing peace. The Lord ends wars by devastating the enemy and destroying the instruments of their warfare. We have the testimony to such action by the Lord in many places in the Word of God and believers have evidence of the conquests of the Lord in our own lives. Why then do the heathen continue to rage and why do so many of the Lord's people tremble at the roaring of the enemy?

Man is by nature given to look to the immediate evidence before him. Thus, he sees certain conditions that exist at any given time and tries to predict an outcome. This may be the case in the prospects of a nation or in the difficulties of an individual. We look at our nation today and the outlook seems grim. Perversity is rampant and wickedness seems to prevail among the many. It would seem that the cause of God and truth suffers greatly and there is no hope for a good outcome. There is truly a famine of the hearing of the Word of God. *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that*

I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: Amos 8:11. As a result the actions of the enemy are increasingly aggressive in their attempt to stamp out the message of God and the Gospel.

The Lord has so ordered things that true faith will never discover the solution apart from God, His grace and His mercy. Yet, Jacob seeks to appease Esau and takes evasive action with his family. The Children of Israel bemoan their situation at the Red Sea. The word from Moses delivers the ultimate and only resolution to the predicament. *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. Exodus 14:13.*

The pronouncement that He is God strikes fear in the heart of the enemy. His attributes are not wholly unknown. That He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent is acknowledged by many who profess no interest in serving Him. But, when the declaration that He is God in full display of His power is brought alongside the sinfulness of man, the petty powers of man are put to silence. That He is God brings to bear the absolute holiness of God and the offended justice of God. There will be no response forthcoming to this declaration. The silence demanded by the prophet will be profound: *But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. Habakkuk 2:20.* As we

contemplate the work of redemption having been accomplished by our Blessed Lord, we are reminded of the words of Zechariah: *Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation. Zechariah 2:13.* We often rejoice that, *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6.* We may be just as assured that the aim of redemption will be brought to full fruition and in the end He shall have suffered no loss in any way and all that are found in opposition will be utterly destroyed.

Those same words that strike fear in the mind of the enemy speak peace and tranquility to the heart of believers who are attentive to them. Spurgeon used the term “expressive silence” in reference to that which is graciously given into the hearts of believers. To be still in this manner reflects at one and the same time a sense of profound worship and the “peace which passeth understanding.” Fear is defanged and trembling ceases. We are reminded that those same attributes of God that are feared by the heathen are engaged for us in

bringing salvation to completion. To know that He is God is more than mere possession of facts in the mind of the believer. It is incorporated into faith itself. That faith that pleases God believes first that He is. We believe that “He is” as surely as He declares “I am.” It is the knowing to which our Lord refers in, *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3.*

The ability to be still is not known where there is no embracing of the Gospel and the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our peace and in looking to Him we are quieted. He has emerged victorious in every way. We only await that which was certified to us by His resurrection and ascension back to Heaven. He is not only our “coming King,” He is our reigning King. And, He is God! We marvel at the humility of Christ Jesus that took Him to the cross and we rejoice at the declaration that He “thought it not robbery to be equal with God.” Indeed we rejoice to sing “Be still my soul: the winds and waves still know/ The voice of who ruled them while He dwelt below.” *bhs*

BEFORE GOD

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. —Isaiah 66:2 Worship also means to “express in some appropriate manner” what you feel.... And what will be expressed? “A humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder.” It is delightful to worship God, but it is also a humbling thing; and the man who has not been humbled in the presence of God will never be a worshiper of God at all. He may be a church member who keeps the rules and obeys the discipline, and who tithes and goes to conference, but he’ll never be a worshiper unless he is deeply humbled. “A humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe.” There’s an awesomeness about God which is missing in our day altogether; there’s little sense of admiring awe in the Church of Christ these days. I kneel before You this morning, Lord, with “a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder.” Use me today, Lord, to stimulate within others some of this much-missing sense of “admiring awe.” Amen. A. W. Tozer

EVIDENCE—Experimental

I HAVE been informed that not long ago a certain infidel lecturer gave an opportunity to persons to reply to him after his oration, and he was of course expecting that one or two rashly zealous young men would rise to advance the common arguments for Christianity, which he was quite prepared, by hook or crook, to battle with or laugh down. Instead of reasoners, an old lady, carrying a basket, wearing an ancient bonnet, and altogether dressed in an antique fashion, which marked both her age and her poverty, came upon the platform. Putting down her basket and umbrella, she began and said, "I paid threepence to hear of something better than Jesus Christ, and I have not heard it. Now, let me tell you what religion has done for me, and then tell me something better, or else you've cheated me out of the threepence which I paid to come in. Now," she said, "I have been a widow thirty years, and I was left with ten children, and I trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ in the depth of poverty, and he appeared for me and comforted me, and helped me to bring up my children so that they have grown up and turned out respectable. None of you can tell what the troubles of a poor lone woman are, but the Lord has made his grace all-sufficient. I was often very sore pressed, but my prayers were heard by my Father in heaven, and I was always delivered. Now, you are going to tell me something better than that—better for a poor woman like me! I have been to the Lord sometimes when I've been very low indeed, and there's been scarcely anything for us to eat, and I've always found his providence has been good and kind to me. And when I lay very sick, I thought I was dying, and my heart was ready to break at leaving my poor fatherless boys and girls, and there was nothing kept me up but the thought of Jesus and his faithful love to my poor soul; and you tell me that it was all nonsense. Those who are young and foolish may believe you, but after what I have gone through I know there is a reality in religion and it is no fancy. Tell me something better than what God has done for me, or else, I tell you, you have cheated me out of my threepence. Tell me something better." The lecturer was a good hand at an argument, but such a mode of controversy was novel, and therefore he gave up the contest, and merely said, "Really, the dear old woman was so happy in her delusion he should not like to undeceive her." "No," she said, "that won't do. Truth is truth, and your laughing can't alter it. Jesus Christ has been all this to me, and I could not sit down in the hall and hear you talk against him without speaking up for him, and asking you whether you could tell me something better than what he has done for me. I've tried and proved him, and that's more than you have." Herein is power, logic invincible, reasoning not to be gainsayed. The testing, and proving of God; getting his love really shed abroad in the heart, this is the great internal evidence of the gospel.

C. H. Spurgeon – *Feathers for Arrows*

ANNOYANCES VANQUISHED – John Bunyan in *Pilgrim's Progress*

PRUDENCE. Can you remember by what means you find your annoyances, at times, as if they were vanquished? CHRISTIAN. Yes, when I think what I saw at the cross, that will do it; and when I look upon my brodered coat, that will do it; also when I look into the roll that I carry in my bosom, that will do it; and when my thoughts wax warm about whither I am going, that will do it.