

No Christian is where he ought to be spiritually

No Christian is where he ought to be spiritually, until the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ is being reproduced in his daily life!

Yet even though a person has become like Christ, he will not know it--because humility and meekness are also a part of the transformation of true godliness!

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. 1 John 2:6 -- A. W. Tozer

SPURGEON'S CATECHISM

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

20.Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

XX.A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5), who being the eternal Son of God, became man (Jn. 1:14), and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person for ever (1 Tim. 3:16; Col. 2:9).

21.Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

XXI. A. Christ, the son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body (Heb. 2:14), and a reasonable soul (Matt. 26:38; Heb. 4:15), being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary, and born of her (Lk. 1:31, 35), yet without sin (Heb. 7:26).

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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. 16

April 20, 2014

AT WHAT COST?

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Luke 14:28

The message that Jesus saves has resounded down through the ages and is the proper themes of both sermon and song. We sing with great delight the exhortation to “Shout salvation full and free; Highest hills and deepest caves; This our song of victory: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!” Every true believer rejoices in and marvels at the knowledge that salvation has come and the price of it has fallen to and been gladly borne by Christ Jesus our Lord. How is it then that our Lord teaches in this passage that we are to consider the cost of discipleship?

Men love to declare that their salvation has come about because of their decision for Christ. Of course this is what they are taught by many who would exalt the will of man over that of God. It would seem that their decision was made with inadequate knowledge of all that is required in the matter of salvation. This we would examine from two perspectives. First we would take note of the fact that salvation is declared to be of the Lord in every aspect from beginning to consummation. Secondly we would understand that salvation produces a visible and experienced effect in the life of the believer. Men err greatly in thinking they must make a contribution to their own redemption. And, they fail to realize that to redeem means to claim ownership. Indeed, we are not our own, we are bought with a price. One does not come to Christ uninformed and it behooves the true messenger of the Gospel to make full disclosure as to what is involved. In this many fail.

We note the faithfulness of our Lord to reveal fully the terms of discipleship. We love the precious teaching that all is of Grace, plus nothing and minus nothing. Yet the enemy seizes upon a precious truth and turns it to grave error in the minds of the unregenerate and the uninformed. In their zeal to proclaim the freeness of salvation they fail to define the evidences of true salvation. It is rather that the emphasis is on that previously mentioned decision and a grossly deficient definition of salvation. Many equate a simple verbal profession with salvation. Such find themselves without the ability to meet the stringent requirements of salvation. We are truly built on Christ, and we must be built by Christ. But, our Lord taught that we are to count the cost before beginning the tower. As to eternal life we can neither produce nor sustain it. Faith apprehends that the cost is discovered in Christ and the ministrations of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord addresses that aspect of discipleship (salvation). He challenged the rich young man who was told to go sell all that he had and given it to the poor and follow Him. Paul Washer posed the question “what does it cost you to be saved?” His answer – everything!” To many this thought would not square with the idea of “salvation full and free.” But, when we understand that we are being saved unto new life in Christ we also understand that He leaves no area for personal claims to the old life. It seems that many view salvation as a

partnership wherein I do some things for me and some for the Lord. Furthermore, they seem to think that whatever they offer is enough. But, the claim of the Lord on the lives of His people is total and there is no place for compromise on that account. In this passage He gives examples and this forcefully drives His point home: *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:33.*

At this point, no doubt, many would object that no one has or even could live fully up to such a claim as that. Pride dies hard. B. B. Caldwell once observed that you can cut the head off a snake and it will continue to wiggle until the sun goes down and the same with sin and pride. The forces of evil are relentless in their attack against full submission in a believer. We easily confess that we have nothing that we cannot give up for the Lord, but have we truly forsaken all. The objector is right in that to some degree all fail and will continue to do so as long as this old nature remains. However, we are taught to be just as relentless in the battle.

Many would argue that we have to “have a little fun.” C. H. Spurgeon once remarked that

he believed that the Lord had given all things in creation for our enjoyment. Yet, is there any comparison to the enjoyments of this world and the joy of serving the Lord? To the faithful servant He says, “enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” As the song writer well expressed it: “The things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

Could it be that we find ourselves conflicted as we face the sorrows and rigors of this world in thinking that I deserve a little peace or finding ourselves asking “why me?” There is no condition set forth in the terms for discipleship that we are owed anything in this life. We do not earn vacations from the strife of this world and the assault of the enemy. We must ever be reminded that He is our shield and our exceeding great reward. He is our peace, and there is none outside of Him.

As we bear witness to the precious Gospel of our Lord let us be faithful to make full disclosure. Being saved in this world is not easy, but the yoke of Christ is. In Him salvation is truly full and free, but there is no room for the baggage of this present evil world. *bhs*

FULL SURRENDER

A wealthy man walked into a village one day seeking to buy up all the homes. One by one, the villagers sold their houses to this man for a good price, except for a poor fellow who lived in the middle of the town. He simply wasn't willing to part with his home. The wealthy man offered a generous amount, but the poor man still wouldn't budge. Even when the price was doubled, the man said no. Finally the rich man said, “Name your price. I'll give you whatever you want, because then I'll own the whole village.” “I don't want to sell to you,” the poor man said. “I'm happy where I am, and this is where I want to stay.” He continued to stand his ground, much to the wealthy man's disenchantment. A few days passed and the rich man was seen strolling through town with his friends, showing them the village. When the poor man heard about it, he stopped one of the wealthy man's friends and took him aside. “Is this man telling you he owns the whole village?” he asked. “Don't believe him! The ground you're standing on still belongs to me.” Fred explained his story: “I believe the enemy of our souls must taunt God the way this poor man taunted the rich one. You see, if there is any part of our lives that we haven't turned over to Christ, the devil reminds him, ‘No, that one isn't totally yours. I still have this patch of ground here.’ “Jesus is totally committed to us. And until we learn to be totally surrendered to him, we'll never find the joy of what it means to fully belong to him. That is the key to every believer's life — full ownership by Christ. Everything we are and want to be belongs to him. Ravi Zacharias quoting Fred David in *Walking from East to West*

OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. —Psalm 29:2 Yes, worship of the loving God is man's whole reason for existence. That is why we are born and that is why we are born again from above. That is why we were created and that is why we have been recreated. That is why there was a genesis at the beginning, and that is why there is a re-genesis, called regeneration. That is also why there is a church. The Christian church exists to worship God first of all. Everything else must come second or third or fourth or fifth.... Sad, sad indeed, are the cries of so many today who have never discovered why they were born. It brings to mind the poet Milton's description of the pathetic lostness and loneliness of our first parents. Driven from the garden, he says, "they took hand in hand and through the valley made their solitary way."

Oh Lord, we live in a world that has so totally lost its way! How few have any concept at all of their reason for existence. How sad to see so many all around us who "took hand in hand and through the valley made their solitary way." Use me today to direct at least one to the right path. Amen. A. W. Tozer



... Well do I remember as I put myself, my life, my friends, my all upon the altar, the deep solemnity that came over my soul with the assurance that my offering was accepted. The presence of God became unutterable real and blessed, and I remember ... stretching myself on the ground and lying there before Him with unspeakable awe and unspeakable joy. For what service I was accepted I knew not, but a deep consciousness that I was not my own took possession of me which has never since been effaced. If we think that boys or girls in their teens are too young for such soul-experiences, we are indeed mistaken. At no time in life is there greater capacity for devotion, if the heart's deepest springs are open to the love of Christ.

Hudson Taylor 1832-1905 (Founder of the China Inland Mission – Spent 51 years in China).



ETERNAL THINGS AND FLEETING. Afar off one can hardly tell which is mountain and which is cloud. The clouds rise with peaks and summits, all apparently as solid, and certainly as glistening, as the snow-clad Alps, so that the clearest eye might readily be deceived. Yet the mountain is unsubstantial as the cloud, and the cloud is never permanent as the mountain. So do the things of time appear to be all-important, far-reaching and enduring, and eternal things are not always of equal weight to the soul with those nearer at hand. Yet, despite all our instinctive judgments may suggest to the contrary, nothing earthly can ever be lasting, nothing in time can be worth considering compared with eternity. The cloudy philosophies of men may assume the shape of eternal truth, but the wind shall scatter them, while the great mountains of the divine word shall stand fast for ever and ever. Spurgeon

"Lord, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. Sever any ties but the ties that bind me to your service and to your heart." David Livingstone