

"I have many in this city who are my people. – Acts 18:10 ... They are Christ's property, and yet perhaps they are lovers of selfish pleasures and haters of holiness; but if Jesus Christ purchased them, He will have them. God is not unfaithful to forget the price that His Son has paid. He will not suffer His substitution to be in any case an ineffectual, dead thing. Tens of thousands of redeemed ones are not regenerated yet, but regenerated they must be; and this is our comfort when we go to them with the quickening Word of God." - Charles Spurgeon

SPURGEON'S CATECHISM

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

38.Q. What shall be done to the wicked at their death?

XXXVIII. A. The souls of the wicked shall at their death be cast into the torments of hell (Lk. 16:22-24), and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection, and judgement of the great day (Ps. 49:14).

39.Q. What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?

XXXIX.A. At the day of judgment the bodies of the wicked being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 25:41).

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: branthjs@msn.com

Website: www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com

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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DIVINE DELIGHT IN OBEDIENCE

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 1 Samuel 15:22

Saul had been commissioned to destroy the Amalekites who had laid wait for the children of Israel as they journeyed out of Egypt. The orders were emphatic. They were to be completely destroyed with absolutely no person or possession to be spared. In view of the cruel character of Saul that later manifested itself this should have been to his liking. However, pride and rationalization intervened and Saul did not do exactly as he had been ordered. How proudly he returned from his victory with not only the deposed king of the Amalekites but also with choice animals to sacrifice. How often it is that men try to improve on something the Lord has ordained. He evidently did not remember the “strange fire” of Nadab and Abihu and their deaths as a result. As a result, the Kingdom was to be taken from him.

His excuses were found lacking. No doubt, he reasoned that the people would be pleased at the way he would honor the Lord. He surely planned to credit the Lord with the victory. The effect, however, was a calculated move to proudly present himself alongside the Lord. When he was found out he blamed his actions on the fear of the people and the fact that he obeyed their voice. We are again reminded of those who would appear to serve the Lord but in fact become compliant with the wishes of men in opposition to the Lord. They go to great lengths to appear sacrificial when in fact they labor for personal recognition and the praises of men.

Obedience is surely a product of the grace of God in His people. After all we are reminded of Apostle’s words: *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13.* That the Lord delights in obedience in His people reminds us that where it exists it has “the image and superscription” of Christ upon it. We are reminded first and foremost of His declaration that: *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. John 8:29.* Again it is He of whom it is said that He “became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” The Apostle Paul declared before Agrippa that “...I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.” Peter spoke of those who “obey not the Gospel.” Thus it is we can understand the reason of this Divine delight in obedience. It is the indicator of Christ indwelling His people. It is the confirmation that we have been made partakers of the divine nature.

Many would err in equating the thought of obedience with some legalistic principle. They think it to be compliance with a set of externally perceived rules when in fact the principles that engender obedience are written in the hearts and minds of the Lord’s people. There is a consciousness of the need for obedience in all. With some there is the reminder of conscience placed there by a rejected creator. This is often borne out by cultural standards of a Christian influenced society. With still others, obedience is there to reject as they are aware but choose

the way of rebellion. In some it is blatant while in others it is subtle. But, in all, outside of Christ and life in Him, it is still disobedience in both principle and practice. *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12.*

We learn something more of the importance attached to the matter of disobedience as Samuel declares it to be rebellion outright and as the sin of witchcraft for its wickedness. The Word of God bears the authority of the one who sent it, is absolute in its truth and in every way Holy. To reject it is to deny the sovereignty of God, substitute pride for truth and to show contempt for the all that God is and to trample underfoot the blood of Christ our Lord. Herein we understand the nature of human depravity in that such opposition is mounted in the interest of pride. Thus, when we utter "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," we must not tread lightly but understand the divine condemnation of it.

As we think on these things we are made to marvel at the extent of the mercy and grace of God. The reminders are often encountered that

we are saved from this very way of life. It is of His grace that we are able to realize that God delights in the obedience of His people. It is extremely gracious that we are enabled to love to obey the Lord and are delighted in the way. The songwriter wrote that there is no other way of happiness than to trust and obey. The two things walk hand in hand in a delightful way. A wise man once said that "grace did not come behind the Law in anything." What the Law required, grace provided and more. We do not look to a set of rules; we are led by a Person. It is He that rendered perfect obedience, a perfect sacrifice and obtained a perfect salvation wherein the partakers are obedient not by law but by a new nature.

It was not an error in judgment that was revealed in Saul, it was the condition of his heart before the Lord. Unregenerate men may fully engage in religion, but pride will be their master. It is not within them to lament a sinful nature as they seek to follow the Lord as did Paul. O that we might imitate Him who declared: *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. Psalms 40:8. bhs*

LEGALISTS

The problem with legalists is that not enough people have confronted them and told them to get lost. Those are strong words, but I don't mess with legalism anymore. I'm 72 years old; what have I got to lose? Seriously, I used to kowtow to legalists, but they're dangerous. They are grace-killers. They'll drive off every new Christian you bring to church. They are enemies of the faith. Other than that, I don't have any opinion! So, if I am trying to force my personal list of no-no's on you and make you feel guilty if you don't join me, then I'm out of line and I need to be told that.

You want to mess up the minds of your children? Here's how - guaranteed! Rear them in a legalistic, tight context of external religion, where performance is more important than reality. Fake your faith. Sneak around and pretend your spirituality. Train your children to do the same. Embrace a long list of do's and don'ts publicly but hypocritically practice them privately... yet never own up to the fact that its hypocrisy. Act one way but live another. And you can count on it - emotional and spiritual damage will occur.

--Author: Chuck Swindoll

ANTICHRISTS

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time"
(1 John 2:18).

Have you ever heard the old adage: "You cannot see the forest for the trees?" Perhaps there is another: "You cannot see the antichrists for the antichrist." Sometimes Christians are preoccupied or fixated on certain issues. In these dark days perhaps some are looking for or anticipating the Antichrist but live among and accept the presence of multitudes of antichrists. Perhaps we should do some spiritual reconnaissance. John appears to be warning against what they had heard in the reality of what was the present situation-"there (are now) many antichrists."

Who is an antichrist? John records, "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also" (1 John 2:22-23). Antichrists are liars and deceivers (2 John 7). Also antichrists are deniers of Biblical truth especially regarding Christ Jesus (2 John 9). Antichrists do not have a saving relationship with God through Christ.

John is writing this to "little children" or "dear children or little born ones." Then by inspiration John pointed out-"it is the last time" or the "last hour." This is the eschatological finality (eschate hora estin). Is he saying that we are in the final hour? "Ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists." The prophetic expectation of the antichrist when surrounded by many antichrists is the picture here. The many antichrists are to be found in dishonest man-centered clergy, media personalities, political figures from the local to the national scene, educators with agnostic and antichrist agendas especially in the universities. They are on every hand. True Christianity is the only objectionable belief system in our culture while pseudo-christianity and every pagan belief is accommodated. The Bible is a banned book from the public square in America. One of the first acts of congress in the new nation was to purchase Bibles for those who did not have them. The reason was that our Constitution would only work in a nation with Biblical morality.

Then John said, "Whereby we know that it is the last time." "Whereby or for this reason we know it is the last hour." Nathanael Hardy, writing in his *The First General Epistle of St. John the Apostle* written in 1656, declared:

We have swarms of antichrists among ourselves; so that this age, and land, and city of ours is become a sink of filthy and loathsome heresies, yea, which is the worst kind of antichristianism, pseudochristianism is the brand of our times, whilst all these antichrists pretend themselves to be the only Christians, yea, some of them assert themselves to be Christified and deified; nay, one of them is so sacrilegiously impudent as to style himself the Christ [302].

Oh, the dishonor that is done to Christ by believers peering through the darkness looking for the antichrist while being overrun with them. Also, there is sacrilege done by those who desire to superimpose their ideas over Christ's. The Lord's people are sick of the blasphemies, heresies and dishonor done to our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We just need to be sure we realize and live in terms of our victorious Redeemer in the midst of a perverse and wicked world.

Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg