

"To praise God without praying to Him would be impossible. To pray to God without praising Him would be ungrateful." Spurgeon

"If you say to me, 'Is it fair that the sin of Adam should be imputed to me?' I will reply by asking, 'Is it fair that the righteousness of Christ should be imputed to you?'" - Martyn Lloyd-Jones (*Romans - Assurance*)

### SPURGEON'S CATECHISM

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

44.Q. Which is the second commandment?

XLIV. A. The second commandment is, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

45.Q. What is required in the second commandment?

XLV. A. The second commandment requires the receiving, observing (Deut. 32:46; Matt. 28:20), and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his Word (Deut. 12:32).

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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 LEGACY OF PRAISE

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. Psalms 145:3-4*

Men often labor with the express idea of leaving a good inheritance to their children. Such love and concern for their children in providing something for their future is admirable. Yet, their labor is in vain in that it is for that which perishes. How much more valuable would be something that endures forever, is ever gaining in value and shall never lose its attractiveness to the possessor. Furthermore, it is not waiting on the death of the giver to be enjoyed. In fact, the Testator has died and He has risen again and the inheritance is secured to all who come unto Him. It is eternal praise to God in Christ our Lord. Of such was the praise of David and of such will be the source of wealth and delight to all beneficiaries of the grace of our God.

Often that which is called worship and praise in our day is greatly lacking in both substance and objective. The substance falls short in that it does not focus on God and all those things that make Him exclusively praiseworthy to true believers. The objective is lacking in that a designed response or feeling is in view. The music associated with such formless worship addresses superficial topics that are only loosely connected to scripture. Feelings are excited through repetition of few words. Both the lines and the tunes are catchy and so presented as to arouse “good feelings” rather than to inspire deep awe and reverence for our God. In many ways, the facilitators of religion manipulate the feelings of their constituents and call it worship.

They are given the message that since it feels good it must be right. They are made to feel magnanimous toward God rather than rejoicing in the knowledge that He is God and that there is none else. In the true worship of God we are drawn out of ourselves to discover in Him that which is infinitely precious and our greatest delight. In this, the exhilaration is of the Spirit with reference to the things of Christ our Lord.

In man-made worship they are made to feel good about themselves. In the true praise of God we are made to feel good about Him. In it we are directed to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in all the perfections of the divine nature. Charles Spurgeon wrote: “Worship should be somewhat like its object – great praise for a great God. There is no part of Jehovah’s greatness which is not worthy of great praise.” While our text tells us that His greatness is unsearchable it does not prohibit searching. We may be incapable of knowing the dimensions of His greatness, but we may know that He is infinitely great. Men would reduce God to their own level of definition rather than to go with His “praise continually in my mouth.” There is much that we may know. *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.* Paul was not resigning himself to ignorance of

the wonders of the greatness of God when he declared: *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Romans 11:33.* He searched for more and so should we.

So then, we should praise Him in the greatness of His wisdom, of His power, and of His faithfulness, holiness, grace and goodness. He is great in the manifestation of His person as the God-man Jesus Christ. He is great in the declaration of God. He is great in the execution of His offices. He is great in the relationship to those He came to save and great in His relationship with the One who sent Him. He is our Prophet, Priest and Kings and in each of those things He is infinitely great. There is none worthy of sharing His praise.

We would further take note of His mighty works of creation and providence. He not only has created the heavens and the earth but He maintains them as well. But we would especially note His greatness in the work of redemption and the greatness of salvation that brings about the full identity of God with his people. Such greatness as enabled Him to bear away the sins of His people and thus to bring us to God. Indeed we sing "How Great Thou Art."

David's declaration that "One generation shall praise thy works to another..." should provoke a question in all. What shall we leave for the next generation? We are inundated with various presentations of the mechanics of religion. But, "how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard." This statement related to the task of preaching the Gospel. Yet, David's legacy of praise would accomplish this purpose whether we think of it as preaching or not. Some years ago a prominent national figure defined what he called "The Silent Majority." The thought was that they were not expressing valuable beliefs they held but would do so in support of his political campaign. Are we living in the age of "The Silent Christians" who are content with their comfortable religion but do not sound forth the praises for God and His mighty works?"

Shall we not speak often of the One in whose hands salvation exclusively resides. *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12.* Shall we not extol the Sovereignty of our God and Christ to all? Shall we not declare that there is mercy with Him alone? "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised." *bhs*

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## Two Infinitely Strong and Tender Truths

John Piper

Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose." (Isaiah 46:10) The word "sovereignty" (like the word "trinity") does not occur in the Bible. We use it to refer to this truth: God is in ultimate control of the world from the largest international intrigue to the smallest bird-fall in the forest.

Here is how the Bible puts it: "I am God and there is no other. . . . My counsel shall stand and I will accomplish all my purpose" (Isaiah 46:10). "God does according to his will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What are you doing?'" (Daniel 4:35). "But he is unchangeable and who can turn him? What he desires, that he does. For he will complete what he

appoints for me" (Job 23:13, 14). "Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases" (Psalm 115:3).

One reason this doctrine is so precious to believers is that we know that God's great desire is to show mercy and kindness to those who trust him (Ephesians 2:7; Psalm 37:3-7; Proverbs 29:25). God's sovereignty means that this design for us cannot be frustrated.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, befalls those who "love God and are called according to his purpose" but what is for our deepest and highest good (Psalm 84:11).

Therefore, the mercy and the sovereignty of God are the twin pillars of my life. They are the hope of my future, the energy of my service, the center of my theology, the bond of my marriage, the best medicine in all my sickness, the remedy of all my discouragements.

And when I come to die (whether sooner or later), these two truths will stand by my bed and with infinitely strong and infinitely tender hands lift me up to God.



"It should fill us with joy, that infinite wisdom guides the affairs of the world. Many of its events are shrouded in darkness and mystery, and inextricable confusion sometimes seems to reign. Often wickedness prevails, and God seems to have forgotten the creatures that He has made. Our own path through life is dark and devious, and beset with difficulties and dangers. How full of consolation is the doctrine, that infinite wisdom directs every event, brings order out of confusion, and light out of darkness, and, to those who love God, causes all things, whatever be their present aspect and apparent tendency, to work together for good." J. L. Dagg (cited by E. W. Lucas)



### Chance is not in our creed

"God observes the death of a sparrow, and he much more notes the lives and deaths of his people."

Even the least part of his children's bodily frame has been registered. The very hairs of their head are counted and catalogued; and, to the most minute circumstance, all their lives are under the arrangement of the Lord of love.

Chance is not in our creed: the decree of the Eternal Watcher rules our destiny, and love is seen in every line of that decree.

Since we shall not suffer harm at the hand of men by their arbitrary conduct, apart from the will and permission of our Father, let us be ready to bear with holy courage whatever the wrath of man may bring upon us.

God will not waste the life of one of his soldiers; no, nor a hair of his head. If we die in God's battle we live in the grandest sense, for by loss of life we gain life. C. H. Spurgeon