

Monergism simply means that it is God who gives ears to hear, eyes to see and a heart to understand (Deut 29:4, 30:6) It is God alone who gives illumination and understanding of His word that we might believe; It is God who raises us from the dead, who circumcises the heart; unplugs our ears; It is God alone who can give us a new sense that we may, at last, have the moral capacity to behold His beauty and unsurpassed excellency. The apostle John recorded Jesus saying to Nicodemus that we naturally LOVE darkness, HATE the light and WILL NOT come into the light (John 3:19, 20). And since our hardened resistance to God is thus seated in our affections, only God, by His grace, can lovingly change, overcome and disarm our rebellious disposition. (from Monergism)

### SPURGEON'S CATECHISM

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

55.Q. Which is the sixth commandment?

LV.A. The sixth commandment is, "Thou shalt not kill."

56.Q. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

LVI. A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life (Acts 16:28), or the life of our neighbour unjustly (Gen. 9:6), or whatever tends to it (Prov. 24:11-12).

#### 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

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### A PLEA FOR REVIVAL

*Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Psalms 85:6*

At the mention of the word revival, images often come to the minds of many of protracted meetings planned and orchestrated in such a way as to generate religious fervor and excitement. Announcements were and are often made that a revival meeting is planned. It seems that the thought is to generate the kind of excitement that will produce professions of faith and revitalize church members. The belief seems to be that by doing this they can convince the Lord to act in accordance with their wishes and designs. True blessings, of any kind, coming from the Lord appear in such a way that all who are involved and affected know of a certainty that it is all of Him and owing nothing to themselves. In the economy of grace, we may observe that the blessings and visitations of the Lord are not conditional (that is dependent on something men can do) but that He has often blessed conditions.

There are many and varied definitions of revival. In reference to the typical scheduled meeting in churches, it may have been accurately described by Vance Havner who said (and I am paraphrasing) that the effect was to arouse the church from sleep enough to raise up on her elbows and give some attention to what was going on and then in a few weeks move around in her bed until she found a more comfortable position and then go back to sleep. Certainly this was a generalization, but we are reminded of the proverb concerning sloth: *Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one*

*that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man. Proverbs 6:10-11.* However well-intentioned these efforts are, there are essential elements that are missed.

The prayer for revival in this passage comes with a definite objective: “...that thy people may rejoice in thee.” May we then believe that the desire here was for a heightened awareness of the Lord, of His person, His majesty and all He would have us to know of Him in order to produce Spiritual joy among the people of God. The writer of Proverbs declared: *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. Proverbs 29:18.* We note that having a vision results in joyful obedience of the kind that can only be produced in a regenerate heart and is directed to Christ our Lord. The vision is not something of the grandeur of human creation. It is rather Christ Himself, high and lifted up and thus instilling confidence and joy in the heart of all who behold Him. It is of His mercy when such revelation of Himself occurs. We cannot separate these things from the Word. John expressed himself preciously in that he used the phrase “these things I write unto you.” In particular we read: *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. 1 John 1:4.*

The true believer longs for a manifestation of the Kingdom, power and glory of our blessed Lord. To such the Word of God reveals to us the blessedness we long to see. We read of times of such visitation in Old Testament passages such as, *So they read in the book in the*

*law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. Nehemiah 8:8.* As they did the Lord visited people and they were moved from repentance and on to rejoicing and magnifying the Name of the Lord. The Lord did not do this because of the reading of the Word, but in conjunction with it. He was pleased to bless the condition.

We are especially thrilled to read of the prevailing of the Word of God in the book of The Acts. With the empowering of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost and beyond we read of many praying, studying the Word, and attending to the Apostles doctrine and the Lord adding to the church. This was no membership campaign; it was the empowering Spirit of God graciously and sovereignly acting on and within His people. How else can we understand men being challenged, persecuted, imprisoned and beaten, thanking the Lord for the privilege and rejoicing at being identified with Christ. The Lord created the conditions (men faithfully preaching the Gospel, attending to the Word of God and prayer) then poured out the blessings: *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31.* They withstood their persecutors, charged them

with the death of Christ and boldly preached the resurrection of Christ . We would note also, *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7.*

Where the power of Christ is manifested whole areas may be affected. What a scene we witness at Ephesus as men turned from idols to serve the living God. *And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Acts 19:18-20.* It is to be noted that the price of those things burned was great. This represented loss to the world. Sin is the largest and most profitable business in the world and those who profit by it will war against the knowledge of Christ crucified, risen and coming again.

Shall we not pray then as the Psalmist for revival and for the reason he gave? Shall we pray for that which we know will incur the wrath of the world and the devil? This is for no fair show in the flesh. It is for the Glory of Christ our Lord. *bhs*

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"Turn thy heart to him, humbly saying, "Lord Jesus whereas I daily fall, and am ready to sin, vouchsafe me grace as oft as I shall, to rise again; let me never presume but always most meekly and humbly acknowledge my wretchedness and frailty, and repent, with firm purpose to amend; and let me not despair because of my great frailty, but ever trust in thy most loving mercy, and readiness to forgive". Henry Scougal

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"The time of flowers has come, and as they are in some faint degree emblems of our Lord, it is well, when God thus calls, that we should seek to learn what he desires to teach us by them. If nature now spreads out her roses and her lilies, or prepares to do so, let us try, not only to see them, but to see Christ as he is shadowed forth in them.

"I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys." If these are the words of the Well-beloved,—and I have no doubt that they are,—then it may be suggested by some that here we have the Savior praising himself; and it is true; but in no unworthy sense, for well may he praise himself since no one else can do it as it should be done. There is no human language that can ever set forth his beauties as they deserve to be told." Spurgeon from a sermon

One gracious purpose of mercy!

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28

Providence is God's government of the universe.

Providence is that mighty scheme . . .

which commenced before time was born;

which embraces the annals of other worlds besides ours;

which includes the history of angels, men, and devils.

Providence comprises the whole range of events which have taken place from the formation of the first creature, to the last moment of time—with all the tendencies, reasons, connections, and results of things.

Providence encompasses the separate existence of each individual, with the continuation and influence of the whole, in one harmonious scheme.

We are puzzled at almost every step, at the deep, unfathomable mysteries of Providence!

How often is Jehovah, in His dealings with us, a God who hides Himself! How often does He wrap Himself in clouds, and pursue His path upon the waters, where we can neither see His goings, nor trace His footsteps! How many of His dispensations are inexplicable, and of His judgments how many are unfathomable by the short line of our reason!

But whatever we don't know now, we shall know hereafter. The crooked will be made straight, the clouds of darkness will be scattered, and all His conduct towards us placed in the broad day-light of eternity.

We shall see how all the varying, and numerous, and seemingly opposite events of our history, were combined into one gracious purpose of mercy, which was most perfectly wise in all its combinations.

Delightful, most delightful, will it be to retrace our winding and often gloomy course, and discern at each change and turning, the reason of the occurrence and the wisdom of God. Delightful will it be to discern the influence which all our temporal circumstances, all our disappointments, losses, and perplexities, had upon our permanent and celestial happiness. How much of divine wisdom, power, goodness, and faithfulness, will our short and simple history present, and what rapturous fervor will the discovery give to the song of praise which we shall utter before the throne of God and the Lamb! John Angell James



God is an everlasting reward. Mortality is the flaw of all earthly things. But God is an eternal reward. Eternity cannot be measured by years nor ages. Eternity makes glory, weighty. Psalm 48:14, "This God is our God forever and ever!" Oh, saints of God, your praying and repenting are but for a while—but your reward is forever! As long as God is God, He will be rewarding you! Hosea 2:19, "I will betroth you unto me forever." God marries Himself to His people, and this admits of no divorce. God's love for His elect is as unchangeable as His love for Christ! Psalm 73:26, "My portion forever." This portion cannot be spent—because it is infinite; nor can it be lost—because it is eternal. Thomas Watson