

Christ will be master of the heart, and sin must be mortified. If your life is unholy, then your heart is unchanged, and you are an unsaved person. The Savior will sanctify His people, renew them, give them a hatred of sin, and a love of holiness. The grace that does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves His people, not IN their sins, but FROM their sins. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.

Author: C.H. Spurgeon

SPURGEON'S CATECHISM

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

63.Q. What is the tenth commandment?

LXIII. A. The tenth commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, or his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's."

64.Q. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

LXIV. A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own estate (1 Cor. 10:10), envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour, (Gal. 5:26) and all inordinate emotions and affections to anything that is his (Col. 3:5).

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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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TO WHOM IS THE LORD PRECIOUS

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 1 Peter 2:7

The test as to whether a profession of faith is genuine or not will be found in the valuation that the believer places on Jesus Christ our Lord. The words are easy to say and may be even be true in that one believes that Jesus exists and even that the account of His life, sacrifice and resurrection are true. But, when examined on the value they place on Christ and life in Him, fatal flaws will often be revealed. Is Jesus Lord of their life indeed? Is it a matter of fact that their lives are centered on Christ or do they simply see Him and religion as an important part of their lives? The term “precious” in the text is of paramount importance in that it speaks to the valuation that a true believer places on his Lord. It is not only that they believe it is true, it is true for them and on Him hangs their life, their joy and their peace and they are led and driven by the love of Christ above all else.

Many are taught to deal with the matter of Christ in a disconnected manner. That is, they can pay homage, say the right words, pay the right dues and carry on with the rest of their lives unaffected thereby. The context of this statement as to the preciousness of the Lord reveals the true basis of a proper valuation of Christ. After a word of exhortation concerning departure from the things that are characteristic of unbelievers, Peter encourages a desire for the “sincere milk of the Word.” The simple use of “milk” to represent the Word tells us that it is something to be ingested and incorporated into the believing experience. In the third verse of

this chapter we are brought to the crux of the matter. It is in tasting or experiencing the graciousness of our Lord in the inward man. The reference is, no doubt, to: *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Psalms 34:8.* It is in coming to the Lord that we begin that lifelong process that produces a growing sense and experience of His preciousness to us.

It is important that we note the check that is placed on our evaluation. Peter describes Him as “chosen of God and precious.” The terms of our valuation of Christ must be in harmony with that of God. In this age of superficial religion and “prosperity gospels” many see the value of Christ as fuel for their own pride and their material desires. He is in fact the “stone” described of old: *The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. Psalms 118:22.* The crowd who subscribes to the popular movements sees no value in Him that endears Him to their souls at any cost.

To the believer He is the “living Stone.” He is not a figure from the past that is honored with their lips while their hearts are far from Him. He is rather the center of their present reality. He is not merely a part of their life, He is their life. They are ever in the process of coming and are being built as that whose identity is never apart from Him. They are partakers of the divine nature and as such are “lively stones” not stationary monuments left insensitive to the moving of the Spirit of our Living Stone.

The words here have the sense of continuous action. That is, unto you who *are* believing He is precious or He is literally "preciousness." Many speak of their salvation in the past tense. It is "I got saved," or "I was saved." It is rare that we hear of one saying "I am saved and actively trusting and serving the Lord," or that even that "I am being saved by the hope that is within me." Some are so fascinated with the idea that they cannot be lost that there is no evidence of a dynamic in their life. If there is no lively sense of the preciousness of Christ and an ongoing delight in His presence, there is no salvation to be lost. What the Lord does is forever and true salvation is of Him alone. He has willed it from eternity, has suffered and died for it in time, has risen victoriously from the dead, quickened by the Holy Spirit, is interceding for His own and is "working in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure." This is the graciousness that is "tasted" by the believer and it is in Him they have eternal delight: *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without*

blame before him in love: Ephesians 1:4.

The value that God placed on the souls of His people is witnessed in the greatness of the sacrifice of Christ our Lord. We are often reminded of the great love of God to us: *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.* It is unthinkable that such love as sent Christ into the world and with such a price as was paid for the redemption of His people that the outcome should be the glib and irreverent actions of many claiming salvation. It is rather: *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.*

Without faith it is impossible to please God. True faith approaches God with a true confession that Jesus Christ is precious above all else and thus acknowledges the valuation of God. And, if He is precious to you, you are precious to Him! *bhs*

Robert Hawker in commenting on 1 Peter 2 wrote:

"Reader! pause over the view; and look one moment longer before you quit this beautiful portion of the Word of God, and consider the different reception this Holy One finds in God the Father's esteem, his people, and the world. In God the Father's esteem, he is declared to be the chief corner stone, elect, precious. Yea, God speaks of him as One in whom his soul delighteth! And so great, and holy, and gracious, that he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. In his people's esteem, he is so precious and so highly beloved, as to be the altogether lovely, and the fairest among ten thousand. But to the world, a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence. He is despised and rejected of men. His Person, his offices, his humble birth, his obscure life, his mean death; yea, all that relates to him as the Savior of sinners, renders him an object of scorn. Oh! thou precious Lord of thy people! how is it that I was made to believe in thee, while thousands reject the counsel of God against their own souls!"

"Regeneration, or that great change without which a man cannot see the kingdom of God, is the effect of the Almighty power. Neither education, endeavors, nor arguments can open the eyes of the blind. It is God alone, who at first caused light to shine out of darkness, who can shine into our hearts, "to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." - John Newton

True Happiness

When I believe ultimate happiness is found only in God, then I will shut out distractions and open His Word. If I buy into the lie that happiness is to be found in wealth, beauty, fame, or any number of endless pursuits besides Christ, I'm doomed to unhappiness because I'm pursuing the wrong things. But when I believe that ultimate happiness and transcendent joy are to be found only in God, then I will turn off the TV and turn off talk radio and sports radio. I will back away from the Internet and video games, open the Word of God and ask His Spirit to speak joy into my life. It takes work to set the Lord always before you and to find your happiness in Him. But when you do, the payoff is huge.

Randy Alcorn



"Grieve Not the Holy Spirit of God"

Ephesians 4:30

How God the Holy Spirit must love us! Only one who loves us can be grieved by us. Others are angered, offended, and antagonized by our acts of evil. One who loves us is grieved. The blessed Holy Spirit has sealed us as the objects of his love in eternal election, sealed us in life in regeneration, and sealed us unto the day of our resurrection. He seals to us all the blessings of the covenant of grace, giving us faith in Christ and thereby assuring us of our interest in our covenant Surety and Savior. He lives within us. He guides us. He teaches us. He reveals Christ to us. And he comforts us. Let us take great care not to grieve him.

"Corrupt Communication"

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth." - By "corrupt communication" Paul means more than cursing. Many, who would never soil their lips with an oath, have mouths full of "corrupt communication", by which the Spirit of God is grieved. What is this "corrupt communication"? The Apostle tells us in verse thirty-one. It is words of "bitterness". It is speech that arises from bitter feelings, speech that is intended to hurt. Bitterness of speech is unbecoming in anyone. But for God's children to speak bitterly of one another is horrid! Bitterness always arises from pride and jealousy. "Corrupt communication" is the language of "wrath", the heat of jealousy and bitterness, and "anger", feelings of ill-will toward another, vengeance, and inward desire to damage, hurt, and kill. Murder is the result of anger unrestrained by law. "Corrupt communication" is the result of anger restrained (outwardly) by law. It is the root of all "clamour", fighting, brawling, contentiousness, and strife. This "corrupt communication" is "evil speaking", slander, gossip, reproach.

"Put Away"

Let these things be "put away from you, with all malice." These things are sinful, carnal, corrupt. They arise from the flesh. They dishonor Christ. They grieve the Holy Spirit. They disrupt the fellowship of the saints. They hinder the cause of Christ. God forbid that we engage in such evil! Let us rather speak "that which is good to the use of edifying...and be kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you". If we cannot speak good of one another, let us speak nothing!

The Tongue

When consecrated to God, no member of the body can be more useful, or do more good than our tongues. With the tongue we sing Jehovah's praise, tell out the story of redeeming love, call sinners to Christ, and edify one another. But unless it is consecrated to the Lord, the tongue can be the most destructive member of the body. "It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." It is a weapon of anger, pouring out harsh, cruel words in a fit of temper. It is a weapon of malice, carrying slander and gossip from house to house, dividing friends and brethren. Well did James write, "If any man offend not in word or deed, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." May God the Holy Spirit give us grace to bridle our tongues. The wounds of the tongue are deep, painful, and lasting. How much better it is to use this little, but mighty member to spread the heavenly dew of grace, pardon, peace, mercy, and love, than to use it spreading the hellish fires of hatred, anger, wrath, malice, and bitterness! -- Don Fortner