

"When we become tired of preaching Christ, then we are false ministers; when you are wearied of hearing of Him, your souls are in an unhealthy state." ~ J.C. Ryle

"Arrange your time for quiet, sober meditation on eternal things. Avoid the company that would lead you to talk only of this world. Take down your long-neglected Bible and study its pages." ~ J.C. Ryle

"Look not to yourselves! You are by nature wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. Look simply unto Jesus." ~ J.C. Ryle

## THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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

4. Q. What is the word of God?

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience (2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 2:20).

5. Q. May all men make use of the Holy Scriptures?

A. All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted to read, hear, and understand the holy scriptures (John 5:38; John 17:17,18; Rev.1:3; Acts 8:30).

6. Q. What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scriptures?

A. The holy scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to believe concerning God, and what duty God requireth of man (2 Tim. 1:13; 3:15,16).

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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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### THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29*

Our Lord Jesus Christ is declared to be the express image of God the Father. *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Hebrews 1:3.* Certainly this can be said of no other. We stand in awe of the fact that such a One took on Him the “likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” The objective of divine foreordination is that we should ultimately be fully conformed to the likeness of Him who is the express image of the Father. It is evident that salvation’s design is to bring a “foreknown” people to complete compatibility with our Triune God. Nothing short of the image or likeness of Christ in us will bring us to that standard. It is required that we be made a new creature in Christ and be made a partaker of the divine nature.

In the beginning we read that the Godhead determined to “make man in our image.” We often struggle in trying to understand how this is so. What we can understand is that in the creation of man God elevated him above all other creatures. We understand something of the importance that God places on this fact and the knowledge of it as we read: *Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. Genesis 9:6.* We realize that through the fall of Adam death passed upon all leaving man ruined and unfit for heavenly cohabitation with God. These words

relate a decree given after the fall. Even in his corrupt state, man bears the image of God and the value placed on human life above that of the animals reflects that. The quest of the evolutionist is to place man as a highly developed result of natural selection. In fact, it is the image of God that the evolutionist seeks to deny. If man is not created in the image of God, then justification for all forms of human idolatry, slaughter of innocents and perversion of the dignity of man is confirmed in the minds of men. May we not parallel increased claims of the evolutionist with rise of depraved behavior?

The fact that men labor to be found in another image is evident everywhere about us. Paul’s observation is thus presented: *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Romans 1:23.* In this way they may see themselves as high animals and worship themselves as such. Idols are likenesses of those things with which the worshiper identifies. Such a person is not merely worshiping a stone. They are worshiping the image depicted by that stone – something their sinful nature can process and accept. They are, in fact, worshiping themselves and pushing the image of God out of the picture. Men left to themselves invariably move to idol or self-worship and change the glory of God in their hearts and minds.

For this reason it was determined that those God knew and loved from all eternity would

ultimately, and by His grace and mercy, be conformed to the image of His Blessed Son, who is God manifest in the flesh and the One in whom we are chosen from the foundation of the world. There would be no place for "the best that men could do." Nothing short of perfection would be acceptable to an infinitely Holy God. So of Him it is said: *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Hebrews 10:14.*

God formed Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed into His nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. Such is the uniqueness of man above all creation. He stood upright and walked erect as did no other creature. He did not develop in that form. He was created to look and appear as Christ Jesus our Lord would appear. Christ did not come here to act as a lamb; the lamb was created so that both the harmlessness of Christ and the nature of dependent men might be illustrated to us. Thus, we understand the determination of God to be that we shall be brought to the perfection found in Christ alone. *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Colossians 3:10.* Men persist in the fatal belief that God conforms to the image of man and

accepts something less than the likeness of Christ in men.

At regeneration, the "new man" mentioned in the passage above is created by the sovereign, mysterious work of the Holy Spirit. Much in the lives of believers would tend to obscure that image of Christ in us. Paul's desire for the Galatians was: *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, Galatians 4:19.* That is, he longed for the presence of Christ to be visible and effective in their lives. Peter would exhort thusly: *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... 2 Peter 3:18.* Starke wrote well that Christ should be formed in us in the understanding in the form of the spiritual knowledge of Christ; in the will so that being regenerated we possess a lively faith whereby all hangs on Christ and in renewal wherein the mind of Christ is daily more formed in us so that the image of Christ becomes ever more discernible.

We can add nothing to the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification. However, we read: *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Romans 13:14.* bhs

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The imperativeness of the new birth  
"You must be born again!" John 3:7

The imperativeness of the new birth is evident from the fact that man is a fallen creature. Originally he was made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26), fitted to enjoy fellowship with Him. But upon his apostasy, he . . . was alienated from his Maker, became unsuited unto the Holy One, and fled from Him.

The natural man is . . . totally depraved, a slave of Satan, dead in sin, and, therefore, it is no marvel that he needs to be born again.

He is devoid of . . . any love to God, any delight in Him, any relish for heavenly things, any ability to perform spiritual acts.

A miracle of grace, then, must be wrought upon him before he is qualified to enter the Father's house. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people--for those who have been made "fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:12), for without holiness no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

An unregenerated person would be entirely out of harmony with the ineffable purity of the celestial courts, and could no more enjoy their company and activities, than could a deaf man enjoy an oratorio, or a blind man enjoy the beauties of an exquisite sunset. A spiritual kingdom requires a spiritual nature, and in order to the acquisition of that, the natural man must be regenerated--divinely regenerated, for the creature can no more quicken himself than he could give himself a natural being.

Regeneration is no . . . mere outward reformation, process of education, or even religious cultivation. No, it consists of a radical change of heart and transformation of character--the communication of a gracious and holy principle, producing new desires, new capacities, and a new life. Then, do not marvel that in order thereto, a man must be born from above. (Arthur Pink, 1952)



### Creation Anxious for the Unveiling

From the Pastor: Dr. M. J. Seymour, Sr.

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, ... For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” (Rom. 8:19-20a, 22) The words “creature” and “creation” are of the same Greek word and having the same meaning. We are made to understand that “the whole creation” is in such utter pain that it collectively groans in agony and suffers as a woman in birth pangs. This horrific torment is not of its own doing, but it was thrust into the penalty of Adam’s sin, but “not willingly”. Creation has been tormented from Adam until now. It is eager to be rescued from the scourge of sinful men.

The time and hope of creation’s expectation is when the sons of God will be manifested; that is, unveiled before all men and creation at the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords with all of His redeemed. Of that day and hour of liberty it is written: “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth. Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein. Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth.” (I Chron. 16:31-33) O what ecstasy shall clamor through the ends of the universes of the whole of His redemption! Even the hallelujahs of tiny sparrows’ rejoicing will echo to the uttermost boundaries of the realms of God. Rejoice! Rejoice! The sons of God have been revealed and made triumphant at the coming of the Judge of the whole creation! Who are they that would hush the endless raptures of so great a redemption? Will not their voices be muted by the roaring of the fires and screams of hell? Their tongues and lips find no jubilations.

Praise be unto our God! Our redemption draweth nigh! The heavens, the earth, the fish, the fowl, the beasts, and all the redeemed in harmony cry aloud, “Even so, Come Lord Jesus!” Quoted by Bro. Dale Wallace

“Only one who knows how to die can know how to live.” -- J.I. Packer

"If we seem to get no good by attempting to draw near to Him, we may be sure we will get none by keeping away from Him." - John Newton