

So thankful for my struggle. It sounds strange, I know. But it's when I struggle that the reality of my new desires and nature is so real. So as long as I remain on this earth I will rejoice even in adversity. For in these moments the grace of God is most sweet. Jesus has endured, He has overcome, and in Him I am MORE than a conqueror. I am a child of the Most High God! Shane Focht (a Dear Brother in Tennessee)

Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition. "Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that!" 1 Timothy 6:6-8 Jeremiah Burroughs

### 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)*

50. Q. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Ex. 20:3).

51. Q. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God and our God (1 Chron. 28:9; Deut. 26:17), and to worship and glorify him accordingly (Mt. 4:10; Ps. 29:2).

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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 ALTERNATIVE TO FAITH

*...To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea. Numbers 14:25*

Unbelief is an opportunistic plague upon the hearts of men.

From the time that Moses returned to Egypt to announce the intentions of the Lord to deliver the Israelites from their terrible bondage, the people murmured, complained and doubted the ability of the Lord. It was more of the same when the Lord instructed Moses to send twelve spies into the land of Canaan which He was giving to the children of Israel. This people had witnessed much along the way as to the power of God to deliver. Yet, confronted with another apparent impossibility they folded up and looked for someone to blame for their predicament.

Believers have for generations read with great pleasure of the mighty works of God. They have marveled at the creation of the universe with all its wonder and vastness. They have bowed before the majesty of His person revealed in His Word. They have cheered at the accounts of defeated enemies and the gifts of victory to the weak and the outnumbered. They have confessed their own offensiveness at the realization of infinite holiness. They have submitted to the greatness of His mercy and stand in awe of the One who has purchased their redemption. Is there yet an enemy that He has not conquered or an opponent that still stands to prevent the salvation of a people loved for all eternity? Then why do we ever find ourselves with David crying and chiding our own souls for being disquieted within? Yet, it is in just such circumstances as these that we are

provoked, as was the Psalmist, to “call to remembrance my song in the night.” Recorded also are these words: *I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? Psalms 77:11-13.*

But, here in the wilderness of Paran gross unbelief rose up in the hearts of the people in the face of the most profound evidence of the sovereignty and power of God. These had witnessed the downfall of arguably the most powerful man on earth at the time. They had not only seen his kingdom crumble they had watched as the opened Red Sea closed upon him and his armies. They had rejoiced for the moment at such a powerful deliverance as would be cited in time to come as having been accomplished in order to display the power of God. But how soon they forgot and began to murmur because they saw no visible means of survival in the wilderness. In time water would come from the Rock, Manna would come down from heaven, enemies would be defeated in order and long after they should have all perished they were alive and thriving.

They had been impressed with the holiness and power of God as they stood before the Mount and heard the thunderous voice and witnessed the lightning and the thick smoke. They had heard the Ten Commandments. They had witnessed the terrible consequences of their early venture into idolatry and felt the

effects of the wrath of God as many were slain. But, they also realized that the Lord had responded to the intercession of Moses and proceeded to lead them onward.

The end had come for this generation. The statement in this text is emphatic and final. They had seen those who appeared as obstacles to possessing the Land that the Lord was determined would be given to the children of Israel. They had quickly thrown aside everything they had experienced in the way of divine deliverance in the past. They stood, not only in fear of an untried enemy but also in doubt of the tried and true God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were in fact accusing the Lord of deception and plotting for their destruction. Now they would wander in the wilderness for the rest of their lives and the Land would be given to their children.

The Apostle tells us these things were preserved for us: *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 1 Corinthians 10:11.* The example to us here is of unbelief and its consequences. We are all vulnerable in that we are still in this old flesh and tormented by this old nature. This, together with the difficulties and giants seem to loom large in opposition to Christianity in general and the exercise of faith

in particular. The enemy surely is a “roaring lion.” There is much in our nation and the world that is bent on the destruction of true faith and the exercise of a believing hope. How easy it is to begin to pray “Lord get me out of here.” But, the battle is before us and the promise of the Gospel and conquest of faith is still in place. We have even greater evidences than were available to these. We have the testimony of our risen Lord and the stability of His government. The purpose of God in redemption stands and is sure and that includes whatever is happening now. We have read and we have heard and now by eyes of faith we have seen. We know Him, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent!

The Apostle not only instructs with regard to these things, he also comforts. *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13.* With faith fixed upon the Captain of our salvation, the wilderness becomes a highway and the obstacles are quickly dispatched. Indeed, we are “Marching to Zion” and the way is clear. And, the conquest will not be by us; it will be by Him who is Faithful and True. *bhs*

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Isn't There Some Misunderstanding? – Oswald Chambers

*Let us go into Judea. His disciples say unto Him . . . Goest Thou thither again? — John 11:7-8*

I may not understand what Jesus Christ says, but it is dangerous to say that therefore He was mistaken in what He said. It is never right to think that my obedience to a word of God will bring dishonour to Jesus. The only thing that will bring dishonour is not obeying Him. To put my view of His honour in place of what He is plainly impelling me to do is never right, although it may arise from a real desire to prevent Him being put to open shame. I know when the proposition comes from God because of its quiet persistence: When I have to weigh the pros and cons, and doubt and debate come in, I am bringing in an element that is not of God, and I come to the conclusion that the suggestion was not a right one. Many of us are

loyal to our notions of Jesus Christ, but how many of us are loyal to Him? Loyalty to Jesus means I have to step out where I do not see anything (cf. Matt. 14:29); loyalty to my notions means that I clear the ground first by my intelligence. Faith is not intelligent understanding, faith is deliberate commitment to a Person where I see no way.

Are you debating whether to take a step in faith in Jesus or to wait until you can see how to do the thing yourself? Obey Him with glad reckless joy. When He says something and you begin to debate, it is because you have a conception of His honour which is not His honour. Are you loyal to Jesus or loyal to your notion of Him? Are you loyal to what He says, or are you trying to compromise with conceptions which never came from Him? "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it."



### When Everyone Deserts You

At my first defense no one took my part; all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4:16–18)

This morning I have lingered long over these magnificent and heart-breaking words. Paul is in custody in Rome. So far as we know, he was not released. His last letter comes to an end like this.

Consider and be astounded!

He is deserted. He is an old man. A loyal servant. In a foreign city, far from home. Surrounded by enemies. In danger of death. Why? Answer: So he could write this precious sentence for our souls: "But the Lord stood by me!"

O how I love those words! When you are deserted by close friends, do you cry out against God? Is your God really the people in your life? Or do you take courage in this magnificent truth: "I will be with you to the end of the age"? Do you strengthen your heart with his inexorable oath: "I will never leave you nor forsake you"?

Then let us say, "The Lord stood by me!"

Question: What was threatened in verse 18? Answer: that Paul might not attain the Lord's heavenly kingdom! "The Lord will . . . save me for his heavenly kingdom."

Question: How was Paul's attaining the heavenly kingdom threatened? Answer: "Evil work." "The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and save me for his heavenly kingdom."

Question: How could an evil work threaten Paul's attaining the heavenly kingdom? Answer: by tempting him to forsake his allegiance to Christ through disobedience.

Question: Was this temptation the "lion's mouth" from which he was rescued? Answer: Yes. "Your adversary the devil prowls like the roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in your faith."

Question: So who gets the glory that Paul did not yield to this temptation but endured to the end in faith and obedience? Answer: "To him [the Lord] be glory for ever and ever."

Question: Why? Wasn't it Paul who stood firm? Answer: "The Lord stood by me and gave me strength!" John Piper