

I would rather stand alone and have everybody as my enemy--than to go along with the crowd to Hell! – A. W. Tozer

Saving faith is irrevocable, total commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself! –A. W. Tozer

### 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)*

40. Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness (Heb. 12:23), and do immediately pass into glory (2 Cor. 5:1, 6, 8; Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43); and their bodies being still united to Christ (1 Thess. 4:14), do rest in their graves (Is. 57:2) till the resurrection (Job 19:26, 27).

41. Q. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection believers, being raised up in glory (1 Cor. 15:43), shall be openly acknowledged, and acquitted in the day of judgment (Mt. 25:23; Mt. 10:32), and made perfectly blessed, both in soul and body, in the full enjoyment of God (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12) to all eternity (1 Thess. 4:17, 18).

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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WXTH-LP 101.7 FM– In Richwood

#### Services:

Sunday Morning Bible Study -- 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship -- 11:00 AM

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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### DEATH FOREVER CONQUERED

*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:17-18)*

Attention to death, dying, and the fear of death has heightened in the last year. Death is about us and is accepted as the normal course of things in this life. It seems though that when the numbers are greater that it looks worse. We hear of a death in an auto crash or because of cancer and the attention is mostly localized. When 200 die in a plane crash, the fear of flying increases in many. With deaths attributed to the COVID virus reported at over 500,000, millions cower in fear. Perhaps it takes the reality of personal vulnerability to bring home the reality of death. We are made to see in a measure the meaning of “...who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Heb. 2:15). Such should never be the way of true believers. That to which others bow in fear has been forever conquered.

Paul’s message in 1 Corinthians 15 defines the Gospel in two elements: the death of Christ and His resurrection and both said to be according to the scriptures. It is central to the revelation of Christ in both the Old and New Testaments. Its importance is evident to those who love the Lord and confirmation of it is registered in the living out of a risen life in them. After all, we were dead in trespasses and sins. If we would know release from the fear of death, we must behold the One who has done what no other has. And He is alive forever more. And we live in Him.

O that we might catch the vision of Christ

that John saw. And that we might be affected as he was. Further it is to be desired that we hear and preach that which our Lord said to John. “Fear not!” This was not a statement without a reason to be understood by all. What the Lord said to John applies to all who would bend to the fear of death. Our attention is directed to both the person of Christ and the accomplishments in our behalf.

He is the first and the last, the Alpha and Omega and declares “I am He that liveth.” He is the eternal One and is the beginning and aim in all of revelation, in all human history, and in all the work and plan of the Kingdom. He is the origin and the fountain of life in all ways. As such, He is the all-sufficient One for all He desires. He is the all-efficient One in all that He requires. This is Christ Jesus the Lord. He has always been our Redeemer God and we know Him as God manifest in the flesh. John caught a glimpse of His majesty and fell at His feet as dead. How do the thoughts of Christ affect us?

Many will profess that He is alive. They also profess Him to have died. It is the nature and reason of that death and resurrection that arrest our thoughts here. The fact that He was dead and is now alive was given as the reason John should not fear. As John lay at His feet these words must have had special meaning. His was a personal submission to death that He might give personal assurance of life. He would have us to know of His absolute control over it

all. Consider, *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. (John 10:17-18).* The literal rendering of “was dead” is “He became dead.” This is more than a mere formality. He allowed death to fully take hold on Him so that the reality of the conquest might be certified. Having suffered already the pangs of spiritual death as the wrath of the Father was poured out on Him, He then allowed that which awaits us all to lay hold on Him. But death could not inflict its final destruction upon Him. It had been written “...neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” There was no sin to be found for death to operate on, neither His, nor those He had borne in His body on the tree. It was all at His own word. It was Him that dismissed His spirit. Thus, having no grounds on which to hold Him, He had to be released at the appointed time.

And so, our Lord declared to John “...behold, I am alive for evermore. The ever living One is forever resurrected as the man Christ Jesus. This is to us an ongoing and eternal reality. He is the “Man of God’s own choosing...” This reality is brought to our experience at each remembrance of Him. And we are reminded that ours is a life claimed from the dead. *For ye*

*are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3).*

Keys in the Scripture are the symbol of authority. Christ here declares that His is the authority over life and death. It is a most powerful declaration of the sovereignty of Christ over all men. It is His power alone to save from death. It is His power alone to raise the dead. We are reminded that on multiple occasions He did so during His earthly ministry. It is also His authority to put to death. *See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. (Deuteronomy 32:39).* We remember well Ananias and Sapphira. But we rejoice in the knowledge that His authority extends over all to our good. *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; (Revelation 3:7).*

John was supported and encouraged at this and so should we be as well. Remember that the same hand that held the seven stars was laid on John. It is to Him that is alive from the dead that we fully surrender. Nothing less is accepted. And so, we hear Him despite all saying, “Fear Not!”  
*bhs*

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## **I Will Not Offer the Lord What Costs Me Nothing**

2 Samuel 24:24.

But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.”

David sinned by numbering the fighting men of Israel. It was not wrong that the king took a census of his army. But there was a subtle but great sin behind this census. Counting the men betrayed the fact that David was not counting on God.

The Lord was displeased with David. And he would punish Israel for David’s sin. But he let David choose the punishment. Three years famine. Three months of persecution from your enemies. Or three days of pestilence.

David responded, “I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man” (2 Samuel 24:14).

For restoration, the Lord commanded David to offer a sacrifice on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. In obedience, David asked to buy Araunah's threshing floor, to build an altar on it. Araunah freely offered the land to the king. But David refused. He insisted on paying for the land, because he could not make an offering that cost him nothing.

Of course, this passage has nothing to do with preaching. Yet it does. It addresses anything we do for the Lord. We should follow David's example and never offer to God something that cost us nothing. – H. B. Charles, Jr.

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**From Alistair Begg in *Pray Big***

Our prayers tell us a great deal about ourselves, and about our faith. The great nineteenth-century Scottish preacher Robert Murray M'Cheyne put it memorably: What a man is on his knees before God, that he is, and nothing more.

To put it another way: the way we use our money and spend our time reveals a great deal about what are our real priorities and what are our real beliefs. And so do our prayers—whether we pray, for whom we pray, and what we pray.

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**A WONDERFUL GOSPEL DECLARATION**

In accordance with the Father's good pleasure, the eternal Son, who is equal with the Father and is the exact representation of His nature, willingly left the glory of heaven, was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin, and was born the God-man: Jesus of Nazareth. As a man, He walked on this earth in perfect obedience to the law of God. In the fullness of time, men rejected and crucified Him. On the cross, He bore man's sin, suffered God's wrath, and died in man's place. On the third day, God raised Him from the dead. This resurrection is the divine declaration that the Father has accepted His Son's death as a sacrifice for sin. Jesus paid the penalty for man's disobedience, satisfied the demands of justice, and appeased the wrath of God. Forty days after the resurrection, the Son of God ascended into the heavens, sat down at the right hand of the Father, and was given glory, honor, and dominion over all. There, in the presence of God, He represents His people and makes requests to God on their behalf. All who acknowledge their sinful, helpless state and throw themselves upon Christ, God will fully pardon, declare righteous, and reconcile unto Himself. This is the gospel of God and of Jesus Christ, His Son. – Paul Washer, *The Gospel Call & True Conversion*.

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Following Jesus means we no longer go our own way. We no longer follow the flow of the crowd. We begin to walk a new path that is headed in a new direction. We walk as Jesus walked and imitate Him. We start to obey the word of God as Jesus did while He was here on the earth. We are to love people as He loved, even those who are most difficult to love. We are to act as He acted and react as He reacted in each situation. We are to meet the many challenges in life as He did, with supreme confidence in God.

--Steven Lawson, *The Cost*