

The world today needs nothing more than true Christ-likeness in those who bear Christ's name... —J.R. Miller

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)*

84. Q. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's (Ex. 20:17).

85. Q. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition (Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6), with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbour, and all that is his (Job 31:29; Rom. 7:15; 1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Cor. 8:4, 7).

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

A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate (1 Kings 21:4; Esther 5:13; 1 Cor. 10:10), envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour (Gal. 5:26; James 3:14, 16), and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his (Rom. 7:7, 8, 13:9; Deut. 5:21).

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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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THE WHOLE MAN

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

There is a tendency in us all to look for shortcuts in any task and for simplification of any situation that seems too complex. In the matters of life and even of faith, we embrace that which is most easily remembered thereby avoiding long and difficult study. It is an observation in this book that “much study is a weariness of the flesh.” We often employ the simplest of world views and love cute little summaries of our approach to life. Such things as “to each his own” or “live and let live.” In other words, “don’t bother me with the details.” As a result of this tendency, I have heard many abbreviate scripture citations to accommodate some personal perspective which in turn distorts the full meaning of the passage. Yet, to facilitate that which is most valuable to us, the Spirit has left us with many inspired statements that are brief but profound in the matter they address. These passages do not bow to sinful and willful ignorance; they rather provoke a deeper consideration of the God who gave them to us. The passage before us here is just such a passage.

The Book of Ecclesiastes has often proven difficult for this writer. But the presence of many simple observations made by Solomon have made it most valuable. Having begun with several summary thoughts, he brings us to a profound conclusion. Such phrases as “all is vanity” and “there is no new thing under the sun” often come to mind as we witness the

continuing cycles of sin and failure among men and experience “vexation of spirit” as a result of them. Solomon confessed to the pursuit of the things of the world but was in the end driven to this conclusion. His comments on the determination of men to sin are invaluable. The heart of men is fully set in them to do evil (Eccl. 8:11). The comments on death are sobering. As we consider men in their quest for earthly possessions, death will take it all. As I once told a Bible study group, “in the end somebody else gets all your stuff.” Solomon would have us to know that there is wholeness to be found only in a proper relationship with God.

So, Solomon reaches, and we are left with an easily remembered conclusion. It is a conclusion that will be reached where true faith exists in that it contemplates the being and existence of God, and it demands our submission to His will and purpose. It is the only conclusion that may be reached as we consider all that Solomon has detailed concerning man, especially his failures. It is most profound in all that is implied of the worthiness of God to be worshiped and obeyed without question. It places full emphasis on the nature of the relationship of God with men and such is worthy of much study. Such a statement, concise though it may be, leads to a deeper consideration of who God is and of our duty before Him.

Having been subject to the fear of death through all our lifetime, the thought of it has

evil connotations to many. Yet, we read that “perfect love casts out fear.” That is, the servile fear of this world. We who fear the Lord know that it is a most securing aspect of our life with God in Christ. Matthew Henry wrote: “The root of religion is fear of God reigning in the heart, and a reverence of his majesty, a deference to his authority, and a dread of his wrath. Fear God, that is, worship God, give him the honour due to his name, in all the instances of true devotion, inward and outward.” What a precious gift is the fear of God! We are reminded of its promise: *And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. (Jeremiah 32:40).* The Apostle Paul put the fear of God squarely in the context of promise in writing to the Corinthians: *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1).* The fear of the Lord is the source of true praise and that is entered into gladly: *And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. (Revelation 19:5).* It is a characteristic of Kingdom expectation: *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (Hebrews 12:28).*

It only follows that in consideration of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts and all else that is embraced in the fear of God that we should keep His commandments. We are

reminded that they are not grievous, that the keeping of His commandments is the assurance of our love to Christ and His love to us. The prophet of old said it so very well: *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8).*

Our text includes the added word “duty.” This is rather, the whole man. “This is the whole of man; it is all his business and all his blessedness; our whole duty is summed up in this and our whole comfort is bound up in this. It is the concern of every man, and ought to be his chief and continual care; it is the common concern of all men, of their whole time. (Matthew Henry).” Robert Hawker commented thusly: “What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? said they. Jesus answered, and said unto him, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. John 6:29. Hence Solomon’s conclusion corresponds to the gospel. The fear of God in the belief of him whom God hath sent, is the whole of man.”

From Alexander MacLaren: “Happy they who, through devious mazes of thought and act, have wandered seeking for the vision of any good, and having found all to be vanity, have been led at last to rest, like the dove in the ark, in the broad simplicity of the truth that all which any man needs for blessedness in the buoyancy of fresh youthful strength and in the feebleness of decaying age, in the stress of life, in the darkness of death, and in the day of judgment, is to ‘fear God and keep His commandments!’”
bhs

I would rather have a little faith in the right object than have any amount of faith in the wrong object. —F.B. Meyer

It is, Bunyan says, the devil’s work to promote a fear of God that makes people afraid of God such that they want to flee from God. The Spirit’s work is the exact opposite: to produce in us a wonderful fear that wins and draws us to God. —Michael Reeves

God has made Christ everything to the believer: • Are we nothing but sin? Christ became sin on behalf of his people to redeem them from it (2 Corinthians 5:21). • Are we perpetual law-breakers? Christ is the fulfillment of the law (Matthew 5:17, Romans 10:4). • Are we separated from God? Christ was forsaken by his Father as Judge so that we will never be forsaken by him (Matthew 27:46). • Are we unrighteous? Christ is the all-righteous one, having merited a perfect robe of righteousness through his active and passive obedience (Isaiah 61:10). • Are we cursed? Christ died the accursed death as curse-bearer for his elect (Galatians 3:13). • Are we under Divine wrath? Christ merits, keeps, and applies peace (Isaiah 53:5). • Are we hell-worthy? Christ descended into hell's pains in his earthly sufferings to prevent hell-bound people from going there forever (Luke 22:44). • Are we condemned by the truth and righteousness of God? In Christ, "mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psalm 85:10). • Are we foolish? Christ is wisdom (Proverbs 8). • Are we filthy? Christ is "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners" (Hebrews 7:26). • Are we prone to temptation? Christ "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). • Are we spiritually poor? Christ "was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). • Are we in spiritual bondage? In Christ there is liberty, for "if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). • Are we weak? Christ is our strength (1 Samuel 15:29, Philippians 4:13). • Are we prayerless and thankless? Christ is the praying and thanking high priest who sits at the right hand of the Father and never ceases to intercede for his people (Romans 8:34). • Are we restless? Christ went without rest for thirty-three years, but now he has entered into his rest (Psalm 132:8, Hebrews 1:3), causing his people to rest in him as their prophet, priest, and king who has paid for their entire salvation (Psalm 110). –Joel Beeke

WILL YOU BE IN THE HEAVENLY CHOIR?

I once attended a worship service of a church in Mexico. The congregation was diverse: of different families, ethnicities, ages, and from places as far away as Canada. But they all had this in common: They all believed the gospel of God's grace. They all therefore sang their praises to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

But I did not join them in singing praises to Christ. I wish I could have. But I could not. For they sang in Spanish, a language unknown by me.

But it will be different in heaven! In that blessed place I will join them in a congregation that no man can number from every sort of mankind from every part of the earth and from every age. It will be the most diverse congregation of saints ever assembled! All in that congregation will unite their voices together in the language of glory – which they all will know – in singing their praises to Jesus Christ: "You are worthy ...; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation"(Revelation 5:9; cp. 7:9ff).

Will you be in the heavenly choir? – Daniel E. Parks

THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF THE PREPARATION NEEDED FOR A COMING ETERNITY IS THAT YOU BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS YOU, AND DO WHAT THE BIBLE BIDS YOU. –THOMAS CHALMERS