

"I am among those who believe that our Western civilization is on its way to perishing. It has many commendable qualities, most of which it has borrowed from the Christian ethic--but it lacks the element of moral wisdom that would give it permanence. Future historians will record that we of the twentieth century had intelligence enough to create a great civilization, but not the moral wisdom to preserve it!" A.W. Tozer, 1897-1963

### 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)*

97.Q. What is baptism?

A. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament instituted by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death, burial, and resurrection; of his being ingrafted into him (Rom. 6:3, 4, 5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27); of remission of sins (Mk. 1:4; Acts 2:38, and 22:16); and of his giving up himself unto God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3, 4).

98. Q. To whom is baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God (Acts 2:38; Mt. 3:6), faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other (Acts 8:12, 36, 37, 38; 10:47, 48).

#### 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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### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS JOY

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)*

In the passage before us we are not presented with a menu of options. These are presented as a unit that describes the character of true believers and declares it to be the work of the Spirit in us. Thus, we are not permitted to claim to love in the absence of any of the other things listed here. These things are the evidence of Christ in you. They display in His people the meaning of being partakers of the divine nature. One said, “where love is, joy is sure to follow” and so does all the rest. Of course, we are aware that these things are set in contrast to the works of the flesh in the preceding three verses. Paul lists seventeen things that are the works of the flesh and indicates there are more. Of one thing we may be certain: there is no joy to be found in any of these.

In thinking of the world’s quest for joy and pleasure, we realize that the things sought after have neither substance nor endurance. Their efforts are soon found to be as the prophet declared: *Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow. (Isaiah 50:11)*. As believers, we are directed to both source and examples of true joy. Our joy is found in Christ and multiple examples are recorded as to those who experienced joy in the things relating to Christ. If then, it is found in Christ it shall be forever more. Jonathan Edwards wrote much on

the beauties of Heaven and the eternal increase of joy. In that joy is the fruit of the Spirit, and we have eternal life, should we not be experiencing joy and sensing a greater ability to express it. We have joy, not only as that born within us, but we are able to find it in the good coming to others. We read of the joy of our Lord in the face of the horror of the cross: *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)*.

The definition of joy given in the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary is worth considering: Among the meanings given is this, “Joy is a delight of the mind from the consideration of the present or assured possession of a good.” To illustrate the dictionary quotes from both Old and New Testament passages. Joy then proceeds from the consideration of what we now possess. In that the Holy Spirit is the giver of joy it only follows that the object of joy is God Himself. He is the God of our salvation and as such has clothed us with the righteousness of Christ. He has pardoned our iniquity. Where there is true conviction of sin, there is no greater joy than to hear of forgiveness through Christ and both the imputing and imparting of the righteousness of Christ. Such is the joy that follows a believer all his days. As Christ is the more revealed to us, we rejoice in the

knowledge of full atonement having been made in our behalf. Furthermore, we are enabled by the Spirit to behold the person of Christ, His fulness, His righteousness and the glory manifested on all His offices as Prophet, Priest, and King. In the execution of these offices, we are found to be justified, pardoned, adopted, reconciled to God, and to be heirs of eternal glory with Him.

John MacArthur defined joy in this way: “A happiness based on unchanging divine promises and eternal spiritual realities. It is the sense of well-being experienced by one who knows all is well between himself and the Lord (1Pe 1:8). Joy is not the result of favorable circumstances, and even occurs when those circumstances are the most painful and severe (Joh 16:20-22). Joy is a gift from God, and as such, believers are not to manufacture it but to delight in the blessing they already possess (Rom 14:17; Php 4:4).”

We are made to marvel as we both read of and experience the realization of joy in the face of trials and the tribulations of this present world. The testimonies to joy in the Scriptures often came in times of great trial. Paul was able to cheer the crew of a sinking ship by giving thanks and eating in their presence. James would enjoin us to “count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.” But then the reactions of people suffering became a source of joy to men like Peter and Paul. They rejoiced as they witnessed the work of the Spirit in others. Men seek for joy only on a personal basis. God’s people can rejoice not only because of the work of the Spirit in them, but also in seeing the work

of the Spirit in others. John desired full joy for those to whom he wrote: *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. (1 John 1:4)*. He repeated that desire in his third epistle. Paul called the Philippians his “Joy and crown.” To the Thessalonians Paul expressed joy in this way: *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy. (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)*. The Thessalonian example was well known in that they “received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.”

Peter brings us to consider the mystical aspects of Spiritual joy in that he referred to the expectation of Christ in this way: *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: (1 Peter 1:8)*. It is true that rejoicing in Christ touches the innermost being of His people and they find themselves incapable of expression – they just know what it is and the reason of it.

We live in a world with causes of sadness and despair on every hand. We witness the futile efforts of men to be happy. Yet, we are able to hear the promise of the Psalmist: *They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalms 126:5-6)*. The world has no basis for rejoicing. We, on the other hand, have every reason to be happy and to experience joy to the fullest at what we possess now and forever. *bhs*

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## “All Things” Romans 8:28

These two words are used together more than 200 times in the Word of God. “All things” is an all-inclusive, universal term. “All things” means “all things”. God does not say “all things” when he means “some things”, or “most things”.

When God says, “all things”, he means “all things”. This is what the Lord God tells us about “all things”.

“All things are of God” (2 Corinthians 5:18). — Everything that comes to pass in time was purposed and predestinated by God in eternity (Ephesians 1:11), and is brought to pass in time by God’s sovereign providence (Isaiah 45:7; Romans 11:36). There are no accidents in this world. There is no such thing as “luck,” “fate,” or “chance.” “All things are of God.” This is especially true with reference to salvation. “Salvation is of the Lord!” He planned it. He purchased it. He performs it. He preserves it. He perfects it. And he shall have all the praise for it!

“All things are for your sakes” (2 Corinthians 4:15). — If you are a believer, one of God’s elect, everything that ever has been, is, or shall be has been ordained and is brought to pass by God for your eternal, spiritual good (Romans 8:28). Nothing ever has happened, shall happen, or can happen that will harm you (Proverbs 12:21). Divine predestination and divine sovereignty are the security of the believer’s soul.

“All things are yours” (1 Corinthians 3:21). — All things are yours by God’s design. All things are yours to use for your own comfort and pleasure as you seek to glorify God in all things. All things are yours if you are Christ’s, for Christ is the Maker and Possessor of all things. —Don Fortner

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## BIRTH OF ISAAC

God is faithful. Heaven and earth may pass, but His word cannot fail. We may wait until all human hopes have died, and then, at “God’s set time,” the child is born. Abraham laughed at the first announcement of this event, Gen 17:17. Later, as Sarah listened to the conversation between her husband and his mysterious guests, she laughed with incredulity, Gen 18:12-15. But now, in the joy of long-deferred motherhood, she found that “the Lord had prepared laughter for her,” and so named her child Isaac. See R.V. margin. Be of good cheer. The Lord has prepared laughter for you also, some few miles ahead on life’s journey. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright. O thou afflicted, He shall lay thy stones in fair colors! And when thy joy comes, rejoice in it. “Thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” But in those hours think kindly of others, and do not forget that some, like Hagar, may be disappointed by what gives thee joy! —F. B. Meyer

IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HEAVEN WOULD BE A MISERABLE PLACE TO AN UNHOLY MAN! WE MUST BE HEAVENLY-MINDED AND HAVE HEAVENLY TASTES IN THE PRESENT LIFE--OR ELSE WE WILL NEVER FIND OURSELVES IN HEAVEN IN THE LIFE TO COME! J. C. RYLE