

There is an account of the famous preacher Rowland Hill being very troubled by an elderly lady who sat near him singing with a most horrible voice, and very loudly. He finally approached her begging her not to sing so loud. Then she replied, "It comes from my heart," and the servant of God retracted his rebuke saying, "Sing away, I should be sorry to stop you." Heart praise to God must not be muzzled.

--Ron Rumburg

### 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)*

104. Q. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper?

A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body (1 Cor. 11:28, 29), of their faith to feed upon him (2 Cor. 13:5), of their repentance (1 Cor. 11:31), love (1 Cor. 10:16, 17), and new obedience (1 Cor. 5:7, 8), lest coming unworthily they eat and drink judgment to themselves (1 Cor. 11:28, 29).

105. Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is an offering up our desires to God (Ps. 62:8), by the assistance of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26), for things agreeable to his will (1 Jn. 5:14; Rom. 8:27), in the name of Christ (Jn. 16:23), believing (Mt. 21:22; James 1:6), with confession of our sins (Ps. 32:5, 6; Dan. 9:4), and thankful acknowledgments of his mercies (Ph. 4:6).

#### 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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### HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE?

*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? (Hebrews 2:3-4).*

Giving due attention to all things pertaining to the Gospel is an essential part of the believing life. How sad that it is treated in such a shallow manner by so many. The reason seems to be that religious leaders are given over to what has been witnessed in the realms of secular education. Many years ago, I heard the phrase “dumbing down the curriculum.” What was meant was that course material was made less difficult, requiring less effort, of less substance, making it easier to attain higher grades. The result was that the grades only gave the appearance of success and true knowledge was greatly lacking. When the standards given in the scripture are altered to accommodate human understanding and human ability the result is neglect of and disregard for the things of God. The Gospel which we have heard declares the power of God unto salvation, and we dare not become indifferent or complacent regarding God’s terms and our affection for them. This is, of course, a strain to the flesh but a delight to the new man in Christ.

The Word of God is precise, not only in its teachings about Christ and salvation, but also about our reaction to hearing and believing it. We are not at liberty to make determinations about the faith of others, and we are not at liberty to presume about our own. Salvation is not merely a part of our life; it is our life and the way of it. The question expressed here answers

itself. What we are told is that where there is the neglect of this great salvation, there is no escape. The word here translated neglect suggests being careless of or to make light of or to improperly regard. Adding emphasis here, the writer calls it “so great salvation.”

This question is asked in the way of comparison to what was declared in the first chapter of Hebrews. There the superiority of Christ over angels was powerfully declared and declaration was made that He is the express image of God and is both the Son of God and God the Son. These truths are foundational and assumed by the writer of Hebrews to be known by those to whom he wrote. Strong emphasis on the greatness of our salvation is because of the greatness of Him through whom we have it and the greatness of the sin of those receiving it. The conclusion of the writer is that we “ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard lest at any time we should let them slip.” He then points back to those things that emphasized the holiness of our God, His intolerance for sin, and the “Just recompense of reward” that was received by the offenders. The word here is depicted as being “spoken by angels” and Christ is infinitely superior to them.

It might be prudent to add here that the writer of Hebrews is not suggesting that one who is born again of the Spirit of God might be lost. It is rather that proper attention may be

given to salvation so as to deliver from presumption. The word “slip” reminds of the leaking cisterns of Jeremiah or the bags with holes of the prophet Haggai. David prayed thusly: *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. (Psalms 19:13)*. There can be no real assurance where a proper valuation of salvation is non-existent. If indeed these things should become a matter of neglect, then the verification of our identity with Christ would be lost. If it persisted, there could be no claim to salvation. It is too great not to be noticed.

The comparison being made to angels, authentication continues with the fact that this is that for which the Lord came into the world and from the beginning declared. It was He who exposed the greatness of man’s sin. He did so in the message He preached – “repent ye and believe the Gospel.” The command to repent declared that men were great sinners and that He was a great Savior. Their reaction to it in rejecting His words proved who they were. Such was their depravity that they condemned the One sent to them. They filled up the measure of their fathers. But then, “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” declaring all men complicit in the rebellion against the Holy One of God. The scripture everywhere declares the utter ruin of man along with his inability to rectify the situation. Only a great salvation could prevail to do so. The greatness of this salvation is confirmed in that God “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath

appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds. (Hebrews 1:2).” This and so much more was confirmed unto them that heard Him.

The Lord had declared to the Apostles that “... ye shall also bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. (John 15:27).” Having accomplished all things Jesus charged those who witnessed His ascension: *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:46-48)*. Indeed, they had heard Him and from them went out the message into all the world and it persists unto this day. It continues despite all that rise up against it, centuries of attempts to eradicate it, championed by those like the three Hebrew children who in the face of death, would not bow.

How great is this Salvation? It is as great as the God who gives it. It is confirmed by its success against the greatness of our sin. It is declared in the greatness of the suffering of our Lord. It is confirmed by two millenniums of witnesses. It was expected by the prophets and holds the interest of the angels. It expresses the eternal and infinite love of our God who created the heavens and the earth and accounts for the very hairs of our heads. To neglect His salvation is to show contempt to our God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

True joy is to be had as we “give the more earnest heed” to this Great Salvation. *bhs*

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## The Danger of Drifting

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (Hebrews 2:1)

We all know people that this has happened to. There is no urgency. No vigilance. No focused listening or considering or fixing of their eyes on Jesus. And the result has not been a standing still, but a drifting away.

That is the point here: there is no standing still. The life of this world is not a lake. It is a river. And it is flowing downward to destruction. If you do not listen earnestly to Jesus and consider him daily and fix your eyes on him hourly, then you will not stand still; you will go backward. You will float away from Christ.

Drifting is a deadly thing in the Christian life. And the remedy for it, according to Hebrews 2:1, is: Pay close attention to what you have heard. That is, consider what God is saying in his Son Jesus. Fix your eyes on what God is saying and doing in the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

This is not a hard swimming stroke to learn. The only thing that keeps us from swimming against sinful culture is not the difficulty of the stroke, but our sinful desire to go with the flow.

Let's not complain that God has given us a hard job. Listen, consider, fix the eyes — this is not what you would call a hard job description. In fact, it is not a job description. It is a solemn invitation to be satisfied in Jesus so that we do not get lured downstream by deceitful desires.

If you are drifting today, one of the signs of hope that you are born again is that you feel pricked for this, and you feel a rising desire to turn your eyes on Jesus and consider him and listen to him in the days and months and years to come.

--John Piper From "The Danger of Drifting from the Word"

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#### DO NOT BE LIKE JUDAS ISCARIOT

Judas Iscariot was very religious. He had a good name – Judas meaning “God Is Praised”. He evidently had a favorable upbringing, being raised an Israelite and taught the things of God from earliest youth. He lived according to the Law of Moses, trying to keep its commandments, observing its sabbaths, and abstaining from its “unclean” foods. He believed many truths regarding Jesus Christ, professed to be His disciple, was baptized, joined himself to the church, had a high position in that church, observed the first Lord's Supper, then died and went to hell.

Let us learn from Judas two important truths.

First: Nothing in Judas' favor or that he did – nor all these things together – will result in the salvation of the soul. Hell will be thickly populated by such people.

Second: The salvation of the soul results from the vital thing that Judas did not do – repent of sins and trust in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. None who do so will be found in hell.

Do not be like Judas Iscariot! – Daniel E. Parks

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*For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living? (Psalms 56:13)*

Here is the loftiest reach of a good man's ambition, to dwell with God, to walk in righteousness before him, to rejoice in his presence, and in the light and glory which it yields. Thus in this short Psalm, we have climbed from the ravenous jaws of the enemy into the light of Jehovah's presence, a path which only faith can tread.

--Spurgeon