

The New Hampshire Confession of Faith

By J. Newton Brown 1833

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel, that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

II Tim. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:3-14; I Peter 1:1-2; Rom. 11:5-6; John 15:16; I John 4:19; II Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matt. 20:16; Acts 15:14; Ex. 33:18-19; Matt. 20:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:23-24; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; II Tim. 1:9; Rom. 11:32-36; I Cor. 1:26-31; Rom. 3:27; Rom. 4:16; Col. 3:12; I Cor. 3:5-7; I Cor. 15:10; I Peter 5:10; Acts 1:24; I Thess. 2:13; I Peter 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; I Thess. 2:12; II Tim. 2:10; I Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; I Thess 1:4-10; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:29; II Peter 1:10-11; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

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“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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GOD IS NOT IN ALL HIS THOUGHTS

The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them. (Psalms 10:4-5)

This Psalm begins with a plaintive cry from the Psalmist. “Why standest thou afar off, O Lord? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble.” There may have been many reasons as to why it appeared to him that the Lord was no longer responsive to him. But identity of the Lord’s people is often verified by their reaction to a sense of the Lord’s absence. C. H. Spurgeon wrote, “The presence of God is the joy of His people, but any suspicion of His absence is distracting beyond measure.” It is not the trouble they see that is most disturbing; it is the hiding of His face.

The observation of the ways of the wicked here is consistent with what is observed in them in all ages, ours included. In verse 2 it is noted that they persecute the poor and in verse 3 they are said to bless those whom the Lord abhors. And in our text, it is first noted that they, because of pride and a concern for their personal appearance before men, “will not seek after God.” In v. 6 of this Psalm “He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity.” In verse 8, the wicked are characterized as oppressors of the innocent. In verse 11 we are given some insight into the wicked heart. “He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he doth hide his face; he will never see it.” He thinks God doesn’t know and doesn’t care. Or it may be that the wicked deem their attitude and actions as none of God’s

business. Of course, we know that “The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good.”

That God is “not in all his thoughts” does not imply that God may be in some of his thoughts; it is rather that God is not in any of his thoughts. Perhaps Spurgeon was alluding to Psalm 1:4 when he wrote, “Amid piles of chaff there was not one kernel of wheat.” We are reminded of such passages as “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.” And from Isaiah, “LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see.” But we are reminded that, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12).* The thoughts and intents of the hearts of those outside of Christ are of anything but God. They devise their own way and it is not the way that leads to eternal life. We remember: *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5).* And we note further that their way persisted in the face of divine declaration as to the truth: *I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that*

was not good, after their own thoughts; (Isaiah 65:2). Paul observed the same things in his day, and we see it in ours: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Romans 1:21).

Surely, we see the same patterns of denial about us today. We see it in the governments of the world including our own. There is neither understanding nor seeking after God. Paul may have been looking to this Psalm when he wrote Romans 3:10-18. The leaders of the nation of the world were prefigured in Pharaoh of old and his reaction to the claims of the Lord. "Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?" Even now we see the determination of them all to bow to the idols that have long been around. But "but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands."

I do not find the study of such things to be pleasant. I do consider the study as necessary. It is included in the Word and are thus written for our benefit. I would see a twofold benefit here. First, it is that we be acutely aware of the deceitfulness of the wickedness of this world. When so many are looking for ways to accommodate the world, we should cry the more for His presence and power to be made manifest. We are to stay upon our God in the darkest of times (Isaiah 50:10) and we must not be silent.

The second benefit is that we are taught most effectively what we are not to do. We are

made to see by implication that if "God is not in all their thoughts, He should be in all of ours. He was certainly in the thoughts of the Psalmist as he cries out in verse 1. So, He was in all the thoughts of the one whose soul panted for God (Psalm 42:1). David would have his thoughts purged and purified and so he prayed: *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalms 139:23-24).* May we be reminded, "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit." Paul would certainly imply that God should be in all our thoughts as he wrote: *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. (Colossians 3:17).* It is more than evident that God should be in all our thoughts even as He has thought upon us and provided such a marvelous salvation through Christ Jesus our Lord. *For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8).*

So may our prayer be: *Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. (Psalms 27:9).* The Psalmist expressed it most preciousely: *In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul. (Psalms 94:19).* May our thoughts of our God have the same effect.
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They are fools that fear to lose their wealth by giving, but fear not to lose themselves by keeping it. —John Trapp

Christianity does not think of a man finally submitting to the power of God, it thinks of him as finally surrendering to the love of God. It is not that man's will is crushed, but that man's heart is broken. —William Barclay

COMMIT TO JESUS CHRIST

An immigrant to the USA in the early-1900s obtained employment and began saving his money so he could bring his family from his old country to join him. He committed his savings every payday into a box he kept hidden in his room. When he opened his box one payday, he discovered that a rodent had gotten into it and chewed all his savings. All that he had committed to the box was gone.

Some may say he should have committed his savings to a more secure place. However, there was no absolute certainty of their security in those places. Locks are picked. Safes are cracked. Stocks drop. Markets crash. Bank security boxes are pillaged. Banks fail – and there was no federal deposit insurance organization in that day. And governments insuring deposits today may fall.

We may apply this truth to the security of our soul, our most valuable possession.

To what have you committed your soul for safekeeping? To yourself? You lose your keys! To your good works? Think of the bad works you do daily! To your religion? Religions fail!

We are not surprised that people who trust the security of their souls to such things confess to being “saved today but lost tomorrow”.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the only true keeper of souls!

Jesus Christ kept His own soul. He was tempted to sin, but never succumbed. He was hated and reviled by men, but did not hate and revile them in return, and continued to do good to them. He permitted men to kill Him, then raised Himself from the dead and ascended to His throne in heaven, where He now watches over the souls of those who follow Him.

Jesus Christ is the keeper of all the souls who follow Him. They trust in Him and commit to Him their souls and everything else they have. They in this life suffer the same troubles and trials He suffered while on this earth. But so great is their confidence in Jesus Christ that they confess “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

Will you commit yourself to Jesus Christ and be eternally secure in Him?

– Daniel E. Parks

Hence the sacred writers so frequently speak of the actual out-goings of a gracious soul towards Jesus Christ, for salvation—of looking and coming to him—of receiving him—and of trusting in him. This is something more than giving credit to the testimony which is given concerning him; something different from a mere belief of the truth. But at the same time, he who really, and from his heart, believes what God's Word reveals concerning the nature of sin, his own vile and lost condition, together with the glorious way in which sinners are saved by Jesus Christ—will necessarily be induced to flee to him, to receive him, and to rest upon him for the salvation of his soul. It must be so in the very nature of things. –John Fawcett