

Love to Jesus is a sure title to the greatest possible happiness; for Jesus is omnipotent and has determined to make his friends happy, and surely will not forget a single one in whose heart is enkindled one spark of love. – Adoniram Judson

If Christ justifies you — He will sanctify you!

He will not save you — and then leave you in your sins. – Robert Murray McCheyne

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)

XIII. Of a Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

I Cor. 1:1-3; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; Acts 8:1; Acts 11:21-23; I Cor. 4:17; I Cor. 14:23; III John 9; I Tim. 3:5; Acts 2:41-42; II Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; I Cor. 5:12-13; I Cor. 11:2; II Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; I Cor. 11:23-24; Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5:6; II Cor. 2:17; I Cor. 4:17; Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; John 15:12; I John 14:21; I Thess. 4:2; II John 6; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:7; I Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; I Tim. 3; Titus 1

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

Volume 15, No. 10

March 6, 2022

OUR WILLING GOD

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: (Hebrews 6:17-18).

Typical thoughts on the will of God tend to move toward His absolute sovereignty. If He is sovereign, then His will must be the same. To many, it stops there. Whatever God wills will come to pass, and there can be no deviation. To think in this manner often leads to accusations of fatalism and with just cause. The error occurs when the thought concerning His will are separated from the love of God and especially the care that He has for His own. The text before us displays the will of God being exercised in bringing assurance and consolation to His people. Often the presentation of the will of God conveys loving facts in a cold and matter-of-fact manner which neither conveys comfort to His people nor does it present the grace of our God to others. I first learned of the doctrine of election as a fact. Sometime later I read something to the effect that, “if you can preach or discuss the doctrine of election with a dry eye, you haven’t understood it.” The fact is that God not only shows us of the immutability of His will, but He also shows us loving purpose as well.

I have often been amused by the efforts of men to establish their credibility as they report something they wish to affirm or to confirm some accomplishment they think worthy of notice. They will call on a witness with a statement like, “isn’t that right,” or “you saw it

didn’t you.” Inadvertently they are arguing from the greater to the lesser in that the word of the friend would have more weight than their own. If, indeed, the witness was an authority or one of high repute the argument or report may have added authenticity. Looking back in this chapter we find distinct references to the practice of men. *For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. (Hebrews 6:16).* But as to God, There was no higher or greater authority to whom He could look. *For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. (Hebrews 6:13-14).*

Attention here is drawn to the fact that God was willing to accommodate the weaknesses of those He has set His love upon. There are many things in the Bible that are of difficult comprehension. It is for that reason we find a lot of repetition in Scripture. While the word here does not reference weakness, abundance speaks to the provision that is above and beyond for us. We are not called to mere belief; we are called to an abundant awareness of the promise in Christ our Lord. Our Lord declared, “I am come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” So, the

writer takes us back to Abraham and the doubled assurance that He gave to Him.

The promise to Abraham was there in his call out of Ur of the Chaldees. In chapter 15 of Genesis the promise is attended by the promise of the presence of God and Abraham believed God. This was followed by the strong affirmation in Genesis 17, *...I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.* Was this not enough? With the offering of Isaac what had been so precious revealed before was indeed confirmed with an oath: *And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:16-18).* Paul confirms that this seed of Abraham was none other than Christ Himself (Galatians 3:16). And, *Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; (Psalms 105:9).*

The writer of Hebrews brings the weight of these things to bear on us with a needed consciousness of the immutability of the will of God. We are made aware of the divine will of approbation wherein we are directed in that which is pleasing to God. Here we are assured by His will of purpose. We have His Word, and His Word is Truth. To those who know the Lord it is precious to know that it was "Of His own

will begot He us with the Word of Truth..." We are further made aware of the fact that He is "Willing to show His wrath and make His power known." And we are assured that "He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy." These are those things, along with the text, in which God cannot lie. The promise and the oath provide a strong consolation unto the heirs of promise.

That consolation is that we have a refuge. We are reminded of the Cities of Refuge and the safety provided from the avenger of blood. Some have suggested here that this flight is as one fleeing from a shipwreck. It is evident that we need a refuge, and this promise and oath directs us to Christ. That consolation furthermore assures us of the ability to lay hold on Christ, "lay hold on eternal life," "lay hold on the hope set before us."

What blessedness it is to know of the willingness of God to abundantly show us of His love, His mercy, and grace, all put on display in the person and work of Christ our Lord. The writer goes on to declare in the next verse that He, the Blessed Hope is our anchor within the veil. It is even Jesus, our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

What an abundance of revelation we have. O that we might be the more attendant upon these things and so avail ourselves of the willingness of God to so bless us. How precious then to read: *Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. (Psalms 110:3-4).* bhs

"THE HOPE SET BEFORE US" Hebrews 6:9-20

The keynote of this passage is patient continuance. We should seek not only faith but its accompaniments. It is not enough to manifest faith, hope and love, but to continue to do so unto the end. Notice that the two conditions on which the promises are inherited are faith and patience.

These truths are enforced by the example of Abraham. He believed God and patiently endured. Your prayers cannot be lost, as ships at sea; they will make harbor at last, laden with golden freight. God's promise and oath are a double door, behind which they who have fled for refuge are safe—a double window beyond which all noise dies down. The allusion is either to the cities of refuge, or to a ship safely riding out the storm. Hope is sure, because the anchor has fastened in a sure ground; steadfast, because its cable will not snap in the strain; and entering, etc., because it unites us to the unseen. Jesus has taken our anchor into the inner harbor, and has dropped it down into the clear, still water there. —F. B. Meyer

RUN TO JEHOVAH

“The name of Jehovah is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverb 18:10).

Jehovah's “name” is Himself. The same principle of identity is found in the expression “Stop in the name of the law” We do not ask, “What is the law's name?” For we know that “the name of the law” is the law itself. Likewise, “the name of Jehovah” is whom and what He is in His eternal being, glorious attributes, and divine perfections.

Jehovah is a “tower”. This tower is so lofty that it reaches into heaven. Jehovah towers over all His foes. Their scaling ladders cannot reach His top.

Jehovah is a “strong tower”. Being omnipotent, He is impregnable. He withstands all His enemies' attacks. Even the gates of hell cannot overcome Him.

Therefore, all who are in Jehovah “are safe”. No one in Jehovah is ever lost. They have eternal security. Their enemies never take them from Jehovah. He never surrenders them to their enemies. They never desert Him.

Now is the time to “run” to Jehovah. Divine wrath is coming for all who are not in Him. Do not postpone or procrastinate, for you know not the hour it will arrive. Do not waste your time trying to build your own strong tower, for no one ever built a tower high or strong enough to withstand divine wrath.

None but “the righteous” will run to Jehovah for safety.

They are not the unrighteous, those who are wicked and have no righteousness at all.

Nor are they the self-righteous, those who think they have good standing before God through what they themselves have done.

Rather, “the righteous” are those who acknowledge that they are devoid of righteousness in and of themselves, and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and have His righteousness imputed to them, charged to their account. They are “the righteous” through and in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ alone. They will run to Jehovah and find in Him eternal security.

Will you run to Jehovah and be safe? — Daniel E. Parks