

Extraordinary afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary grace. —Matthew Henry

It will not take long for God to make up to you in the next world for all you have suffered in this.
—De Witt Talmage

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)

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper; in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; John 4:12; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12; Acts 16:32-34; Acts 18:8; Acts 10:47-48; Gal.3:26-28; Rom.6:4; Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:20-21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; I Cor.11:28; I Cor. 5:1-8; I Cor. 10:3-32; I Cor. 11:17-32; John 6:26

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. 11

March 13, 2022

A PRAYER FOR WORTHINESS

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

In his intent to comfort the Thessalonians, Paul wrote of the second coming of Christ in his first epistle to them with great effect. So much was this that he sought to give direction to their expectations in this epistle. In the second chapter Paul specifically urged them not to be shaken as to the day of Christ being at hand. Certainly, he did not contradict that which he had declared in the previous epistle; rather it was that he would direct their attention to concerns that were more immediate as to their calling and identification with Christ. It was not that he would deter them from their “patience of hope.” It was that he would have them to examine and seek after the assurances of that hope fulfilled.

The Thessalonians were a persecuted people, and this was a point of confusion to them. Paul first commended their growth in faith and love to the brethren much as he had in the first epistle. It was such that Paul had shared their testimony in other places with specific reference to their patience and faith. Of special notice was the fact that these continued in the face of persecution. They might be asking why the Lord was allowing them to suffer so. Paul pointed to something that might go unnoticed. In their suffering they had manifested the wisdom of God in allowing them to suffer so that they might prove that they were “worthy of

the Kingdom of God for which ye also suffer...” There was no doubt that God would properly recompense those that were persecuting them. To them which were troubled, Paul reminded them that they would be found with him when the Lord would be revealed with His heavenly entourage, “in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...” These are to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord. This is when He shall come to be glorified in His saints. Paul adds that it was because they had believed His testimony to them. (See 2 Thessalonians 5-10).

Paul here lays emphasis on their personal concern to be counted worthy. It is typical for a true believer to deny any claim to worthiness. I have often been drawn to the prayer of Jacob: *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. (Genesis 32:10).* Paul is not urging them to be the judges of their own worthiness. Paul is praying that they might be counted worthy of their calling. According to scholars, the word “this” should be replaced with the word “your.” Furthermore, we would understand the idea of being counted as meaning to be made worthy. Paul wrote to Timothy of being counted faithful

and being put into the ministry because of mercy.

We do well to consider their calling and our calling. We are quickly reminded of our call to salvation in Romans 8:29. But that calling is not without characteristics as to what and to whom that call is issued. Paul reminded Timothy that we are “called with an holy calling.” Matthew Henry wrote “...we are called to God’s Kingdom and glory; and no less than the inheritance of the saints is the hope of our calling, nothing less than the enjoyment of that glory and felicity which shall be revealed when Christ Jesus shall be revealed from heaven.” He went on to propose that with this being our calling that our great concern should be to be worthy of it. In that we have no worthiness of our own and no ability to produce it, we are constrained to look to the grace of God and the power of God to obtain it for us and to produce it in us. In so praying for them Paul encouraged the Thessalonians and us to so pray.

Paul further prayed for them that they would see the purpose of God in their quest for worthiness. Again, quoting Matthew Henry: “That God would carry on the good work that is begun, *and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness*. The good pleasure of God denotes his gracious purposes towards his people, which flow from his goodness, and are full of goodness towards them; and it is thence that all good comes to us. If there be any good in us, it is the fruit of God’s good-will to us, it is owing to the good pleasure of his goodness, and therefore is called grace.” They are again pointed to their “work of faith” and to the power of God that

both begins and sees it through. It is a calling of which we are to strive to be worthy. See Ephesians 4:1. MacLaren wrote: “The very essence of the Christian life is yearning for completeness, and restlessness as long as sin has any power over us. We live not only by admiration, faith, and love, but we live by hope; and he who does not hunger and thirst after righteousness has yet to learn what are the first principles of the Gospel of Christ.”

What a precious indicator we have when the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified in us. But then the thought is added that we should be glorified in Him. How sweetly does the grace of God hold the hand of human responsibility. Again quoting MacLaren: “Brethren, meditate on your calling, the fact, its method, its aim, its obligations, and its powers. Cherish hopes and desires after goodness, the only hopes and desires that are certain to be fulfilled. Cultivate the life of faith working by love, and let us all live in the light of that solemn expectation that the Lord will judge His people. Then we may hope that the voice which summoned us will welcome us, and proclaim even of us, stained and undeserving as we rightly feel ourselves to be: ‘They have not defiled their garments, therefore they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.’”

We have much guidance from the prayers of the Bible and this one is no exception. We dare not presume on the grace of our God. We would rather pursue those things which are set before us by the “grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. O to be worthy! *bhs*

“The tragedy of sin is that it affects man in his highest faculties. Sin causes us to become fools and behave in an irrational manner. Modern man, far from being ruled by reason, is ruled by lust and passion.”

“The more holy a person is, the simpler will that person's life be.”

--both Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Preach The Word

We as it were hear the words, “Preach the Word, be instant in season and out.” This is our task under our great Saviour and Lord. This is the Book that when preached does not return void. And oh, how pure those words are. “The words of the LORD are pure words: as the silver tried in the furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Ps. 12:6). Charley Spurgeon replied, “The Bible has passed through the furnace of persecution, literary criticism, philosophic doubt, and scientific discovery, and has lost nothing but those human interpretations which clung to it as alloy to precious ore. The experience of the saints has tried it in every conceivable manner, but not a single doctrine or promise has been consumed in the most excessive heat.” What a comfort is verse 7 of Psalm 12 where we learn that our Lord will keep and preserve us and guard us from this evil generation forever. –Dr. Ron Rumburg

REIGN BLESSED JESUS – A prayer from John Fawcett, *Christ Precious to Believers*

'Reign, blessed Jesus, in my heart, reign supreme, and without a rival. I would sincerely love you above all things in heaven or earth. I see that you are infinitely glorious in your own self, and worthy of the highest esteem and love. You are the only all-sufficient good, the overflowing spring of grace and blessedness. All things beneath and besides you—are vanity and emptiness. In comparison with you, they are less than nothing. You have drawn my heart towards yourself, and made me willing to make choice of you, as my Savior, and my Portion. I would renounce all that the world calls good or great, that I may be entirely yours. Be my everlasting inheritance, and I shall desire nothing that a whole world of creatures can bestow. Whom have I in heaven but you? There is nothing on earth that I desire in comparison of you! 'I am but a stranger in this world, wherever I may be situated, or however I may happen to be distinguished. And surely it is my privilege that I am so. When I look not upon myself as a stranger and a pilgrim, when I am captivated with anything in this place of my exile—I forget myself, and act far beneath my character, as a candidate for an immortal crown. 'I hope I have counted the cost of being one of your disciples; I hope I have laid in the balance—all which this world can flatter me with, and compared it with the gain of godliness. The odds I find to be infinite. I would therefore bid adieu to the gaudy pomps and empty vanities of life, and give my heart to you. I hear the voice of infinite mercy directing me to set my affections on things above. I would obey the celestial Monitor. What can present scenes afford, to tempt me to relinquish the choice I have been enabled to make? What can they offer, as an equivalent to his favor, whose smiles enlighten the realms of bliss, and fill all inhabitants of heaven with unbounded and everlasting delight?'

ALL THAT MATTERS MAY BE BROUGHT BEFORE GOD, BUT WE MUST ALWAYS BRING BEFORE GOD THOSE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST. –ALISTAIR BEGG