

We mistakenly look for tokens of God's love in happiness. We should instead look for them in His faithful and persistent work to conform us to Christ. —Jerry Bridges

Christ is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all. – Hudson Taylor

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)

XVII. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

Mal. 3:18; Pro. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Jer. 15:19; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 6:16; Rom. 1:17; Rom. 7:6; I John 2:29; I John 3:7; Rom. 6:18,22; I Cor. 11:32; Pro. 11:31; I Peter 4:17-18; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Ps. 10:4; Isa. 55:6-7; Pro. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Pro. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; Luke 9:23-26; Ecc. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14

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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

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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THE REIGN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. (Isaiah 32:1-2)

We are often shown conditions in Scripture that are in stark contrast to each other. Such is that which appears in this treasured passage. On the one hand we find that which is tempestuous and threatening. While on the other hand we find peace and safety. As we look about us today, we see anything but the peace and tranquility promised us in Christ our Lord. Yet, there are those in the world who can enjoy the delights of the Kingdom of God despite all that is going on around us. It is the optimism and assurance of Scripture that sustains us.

The ultimate message of prophecy is of victory and joy. This, again, contrasts with the many prophecies of doom and destruction declared as either having come or to come to those who despise righteousness, hate God, and reject the Gospel and the Son of God, Jesus Christ the Righteous. It is to we who love God, the called according to His purpose, to look always to Him who champions that victory and is the source of that joy. Where there is a kingdom, there is a King, and the nature of the reign reflects the nature of the King Himself! The metaphors in this passage speak great things about Him. To truly benefit from Bible Prophecy, we must see Christ as the ultimate revelation and ourselves with Him and in Him. Men, tend to be fascinated with events that are prophesied and participate as spectators. Such may miss Christ altogether.

The greatest declaration of royalty is found in the second Psalm: *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. (Psalms 2:6)*. Some think here of King Hezekiah, who was a contemporary of Isaiah, but many problems present themselves in that view. While Hezekiah followed the reign of a very wicked king and did many good things, the view here is most certainly of all that has come to pass in Christ our Lord. As King He shall, and does, reign. This is without doubt in the faith of God's elect. The essence of His reign is righteousness. His might will be acknowledged sooner or later by all who behold Him. Truly, every knee will bow. "Justice and Judgment are the habitation of His throne." We are reminded of the significance of the scepter in the hands of ancient kings. By it sovereignty was declared and directions were ordered. But of Christ we read: *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Hebrews 1:8)*. On Him we may fully depend: *And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. (Isaiah 11:5)*.

His princes? Angels are referred to as such, but the declaration of the Gospel and the administration of its principles seem to be in view as the work of those who render service to their King. It has been the characteristic of those who serve Him to speak with delegated

authority and many have done so at the cost of their lives. Lives are lived in defiance of all that is not of Him. The kings of the earth fear those who serve King Jesus for they know that they cannot be intimidated, and they will not be dominated by any other.

The only perfect man is here declared to be all that is needed to weather the onslaught of danger. He is "God manifest in the flesh." He is so by divine decree and by voluntary agreement. The hiding place we would understand without difficulty were we dealing with literal situations. Men will flee to shelter when threatened by the elements mentioned here. But there is a greater wind of judgment and justice as well as the devilish attacks upon the very soul. These are the aim of the divine provision here.

The hiding place and covert here is the Man, Christ Jesus. We are robed in His righteousness, justified by the blood of His sacrifice, and secured in the new life we have as He intercedes for us. Thus, we are hidden from the wrath of God. Having seen the awfulness of our sin and rebellion and noting the wrath that fell upon our substitute, He is indeed our Hiding Place. Further we are delivered into safekeeping from the effects of sin knowing that "your life is hid with Christ in God." We are secured from the attacks of the enemy on every hand. We are reminded of the storms depicted in the Bible and we witness the raging of the sea all about us. Our enemy is violent and will manifest it wherever he may, but we are secure in our "hiding place." We have the assurance of our intercessor, our High Priest, who is touched with

the feeling of our infirmity, is indeed our "Shelter in the time of storm."

It is obvious to all true believers that we are dwelling in a "dry and thirsty land." Yet, the water of life is despised and rejected. Believers are clearly being shown the life we do not want. There is truly a Famine of hearing the words of the Lord (Amos 8:11). How precious to us who drink of the Water of Life are the words of the Psalmist: *There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. (Psalms 46:4).* Again, standing out in stark contrast to the desert in which we find ourselves we may both read and experience the words of our Lord: *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:38).* Under the shadow of the great Rock of our salvation we are comforted and assured. *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4).* An unmovable Rock stands between us and all that threatens.

The effects of this reign will be observed in His people (vv. 3-4). Eyes are not dim, and ears are not dull of hearing. Rather they shall hearken to what is said. They who have been rash in heart shall understand knowledge. O that we might know! And they that understand shall be ready to speak plainly. They shall without hesitation be ready to extol the virtues of our King and declare that He is Lord to the Glory of God the Father. Indeed, He reigns in Righteousness. *bhs*

That Jesus lives means that our best days are not behind us but ahead; that our great hope is not some mere hero of the past but the living Lord of the universe; that our faith is not dead but unites us to an active Savior, Treasure, and Friend. It is an infinitely precious thing to say not just that Jesus died, but that he lives.

--David Mathis, Rich Wounds

Love of the Brethren

So dear are the followers of Christ to those who believe—that they are ready and willing to treat such as brethren; to show kindness and good-will to them on all occasions; and though they are poor and despised in the world—to esteem them as the excellent in the earth, because of their conformity and relation to Christ. We make it manifest that we have a sincere affection to such, when we reveal a pitiful and tender spirit towards them in calamity, when we are ready to bear their burdens, and willing to spend part of our substance, and to suffer many inconveniences in our worldly interests, in order to promote their welfare in soul and body. —John Fawcett, *Christ Precious to Believers*

"What God requires of us he himself works in us, or it is not done. He that commands faith, holiness, and love, creates them by the power of his grace going along with his word, that he may have all the praise." - Matthew Henry

ANXIETY for souls

I HAVE heard of one brought to Christ who was a very great sinner—of so stiff a neck that he never would be approached by anybody who aimed at his conversion. He hated the very mention of religion. He answered all appeals very coarsely. But one of his neighbours felt forced to go to him very early in the morning and say to him, "I beg your pardon for intruding so early, but I lay awake all last night thinking about you; and I cannot rest till I tell you something." He answered, "What were you thinking about me for? I don't want any of your thoughts."

"Oh," said the other, "I felt so sorry to think that if you were to die, you would die without hope." The bearish man replied, "Mind your own business." "But," said the other, "that is my business. I think my heart will break unless I see you saved." All the answer was, "Go away with you, don't come here with any of your cant." The brother went home weeping, but he was not the only one who felt his heart breaking. The bearish one went away from his forge, and said to his wife, "I can always answer these religious fellows. I do not care for your parsons a bit, but that neighbour of ours has been in here, and he says it will break his heart unless I am converted; and that beats me." He was beaten. Out of a sort of kindly pity for his neighbour's weakmindedness, with a mixture of an unacknowledged feeling on his own account, he went to hear the preaching of the Word and was brought to Jesus.

--C. H. Spurgeon, *Barbed Arrows*

We have need, beloved, to be cautioned against an error into which some have fallen—of exalting the work of Christ above the person of Christ—in other words, not tracing the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice to the essential dignity of Christ's person. —Octavius Winslow