

If our souls are resting in Christ, if our hearts be filled with a tranquil gladness, work will be easy, duties pleasant, sorrow bearable, endurance possible. —A.W. Pink

Some temptations come to the industrious, but all temptations attack the idle. —C.H. Spurgeon

The Baptist Catechism (Keach's Catechism)

1677

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

Q. 25. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person, forever.

(Gal. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5; John 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9)

Q. 26. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul; being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary and born of her, yet without sin.

(Heb. 2:14; Matt. 26:38; Luke 2:52; John 12:27; Luke 1:31-35; Heb. 4:15; 7:26)

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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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BEZALEEL

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, (Exodus 31:1-3).

A wise man once said to me, “Those who God calls, He qualifies.” In reflecting on those words, I have often wondered at the ineptness of many preachers so-called and marveled at the wondrous things He has done with the most unlikely of people. In other cases, the Lord has been pleased to raise up those whose talents are known by many, who having been born again by the Spirit of God, use those talents to serve the Lord. Those skills range from artistic abilities of various sorts to the skills of the craftsman. Whether possessed before the need was manifested or learned after the fact, we recognize and rejoice in the providence of God in enabling in them those things to which they are called.

Moses had been given the pattern for a most intricate structure and all the things which would pertain to ministering the things of the Lord therein. We recall that when Moses was called to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt that he hesitated. He was fearful of not being believed and complained of a lack of eloquence. And now after all the events that had transpired the Lord speaks to him again with a seemingly impossible task. This magnificent structure was to be built. They were not in an area that lent itself to such a project. They were encamped in a wilderness. But they would find all that was needed had been procured in advance. And, furthermore, the Lord prepared the one who

would be able to complete the work in every detail. This was not the plan of Moses. The pattern had been shown to Moses in the Mount and it was to be followed without deviation. The assurance was given to Moses in the call of Bezaleel.

So, the Lord tells Moses that He has called the man by name to attend to the construction of the Tabernacle. There were no job applications to be taken. The details were of the Lord and the Lord had prequalified the man of His choice. It is interesting to note that he was of the Tribe of Judah and the grandson of Hur. This may well have been the man who stood at the side of Moses at the battle with the Amalekites. It was the Lord that had filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and all manner of workmanship. Some have suggested that these skills had been learned in Egypt. It would be reasonable to think so in that they were not that far removed from their departure. We have no trouble understanding that his talents were extraordinary and amazing. Of course, we understand that these were sanctified by the fact that he was filled with the Spirit of God. *Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? (Job 38:36).* Robert Jamieson wrote: “When God has any special work to be accomplished, He always raises up instruments capable of doing it; and it

is likely that He had given to the son of Uri that strong aptitude and those opportunities of gaining mechanical skill with an ultimate view to this responsible office.”

Arthur Pink saw pictures of Christ in that which is written of Bezaleel. Certainly, we are reminded of the words of the Psalmist: “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...” Our Lord referred to His task as, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” Even as we explore the many pictures of redemption set forth in the Wilderness Tabernacle, we are made aware that while it was built by the hands of men, only Christ could build and sustain the Kingdom of God. See Matthew 16:18.

Paul, like Bezaleel, had been given great knowledge of the Scripture. Then the Lord arrested him and commissioned him to the work of the ministry. How did Paul see himself? *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).* When our Lord would grow His people, He gave them gifts in the form of those ministering the Word of God. *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the*

stature of the fulness of Christ: (Ephesians 4:11-13). These the Lord had qualified to accomplish His will. But we look even further into the matter of being qualified to the work of our Lord. We are reminded that we have been “created unto good works.” We would witness that distribution of gifts among us. F. B. Meyer observed here, “Whenever there is special work to be done God will find and endow the men who are to do it. “I have called,... I have filled,... I have appointed,” etc. There is a niche for each of us in God’s service, to each a special work is given; and for each those talents are imparted, which are requisite and adequate. “Created unto good works,” says the Apostle, “which God has before prepared that we should walk in them,” Eph 2:10. The talent for the sphere and the sphere for the talent-God’s call binding the two with golden clasps.”

I think it safe to say that the work of Bezaleel was of the most exquisite beauty to the most infinite detail. No artist among men would do better. But we note that He gave him Aholiab and all that were wise hearted and had given them wisdom as well. The Tabernacle would be perfectly done because the Lord had so ordered such to be the picture of His Son and the work of redemption. But then the Lord has so ordered matters with us so that we being sanctified by the same Spirit we are given to pray with Moses: *Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. (Psalms 90:16-17).* O to be used (and used up) of Him! *bhs*

“But are you always conscious of abiding in Christ?” Mr Taylor was asked many years later. “While sleeping last night,” he replied, “did I cease to abide in your home because I was unconscious of the fact? We should never be conscious of not abiding in Christ.” I change, He changes not; The Christ can never die: His truth, not mine, the resting place; His love, not mine, the tie. –*Hudson Taylor’s Spiritual Secret*

The Lord Jesus is the central theme of the Bible, and He also testifies to the unity, inspiration, and authority of Scripture. Jesus Christ is the object of each book in the Bible. The Lord Jesus' sojourn in this world brought Him into contact with two men who thought they knew the Scriptures, but they could not see Christ Jesus there and they received an admonition from Him when He confronted them with these words, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory" (Luke 24:25-26)? Then Jesus began at Moses and the prophets expounding to them the Scriptures concerning Himself. "Christ did not cherry-pick the Old Testament for some valid teachings amid cultural rubbish, but rebuked people for failing 'to believe all that the prophets have spoken' and taught them about himself from 'all the Scriptures' (Luke 24:25, 27). To reject the Old Testament as the word of God is to reject the Lord Jesus Christ, for he endorsed the Hebrew Scriptures as the unbreakable word of the Lord" [Beeke & Smalley]. Thus, rejecting, for example the book of Genesis, is to reject Christ Jesus who verified that book.

John Charles Ryle (1816-1900) wrote of Jesus' exposition concerning Himself, "How shall we explain these words? In what way did our Lord show 'things concerning himself' in every part of the Old Testament field? The answer to these questions is short and simple. Christ was the substance of every Old Testament sacrifice ordained in the law of Moses. Christ was the true Deliverer and King of Whom all the judges and deliverers in Jewish history were types. Christ was the coming Prophet greater than Moses, whose glorious advent filled the pages of prophets. Christ was the true seed of the woman who was to bruise the serpent's head,—the true seed in whom all nations were to be blessed,—the true Shiloh to whom the people were to be gathered,—the true scape-goat,—the true brazen serpent,—the true Lamb to which every daily offering pointed,—the true High Priest of whom every descendant of Aaron was a figure. These things, or something like them, we need not doubt, were some of the things which our Lord expounded in the way to Emmaus.

Let it be a settled principle in our minds, in reading the Bible, that Christ is the central sun of the whole book. So long as we keep Him in view, we shall never greatly err, in our search for spiritual knowledge. Once losing sight of Christ, we shall find the whole Bible dark and full of difficulty. The key of Bible knowledge is Jesus Christ." —Dr. Ron Rumburg, excerpted from an article.

The best way to control our thoughts is to offer the mind to God in complete surrender. The Holy Spirit will accept it and take control of it immediately. Then it will be relatively easy to think on spiritual things, especially if we train our thought by long periods of daily prayer. Long practice in the art of mental prayer (that is, talking to God inwardly as we work or travel) will help to form the habit of holy thought. —A. W. Tozer, *Born After Midnight*