

The Bible is more relevant than tomorrow's newspaper, more reliable than tomorrow's sunrise.
—Steven Lawson

What then is holiness? Holiness is nothing but the implanting, writing and living out of the gospel in our souls. —John Owen

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. 41. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers are at death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory, and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection. (Heb. 12:23; Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43; 1 Thess 4:14; Is. 57:2; Job 19:26)

Q. 42. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers become raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

(Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:42-43; Matt. 10:32; 1 John 3:2; 1 Thess. 4:17)

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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

Volume 15, No. 33

August 14, 2022

COMFORT AND PEACE

These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:25-27).

The things of God that are incorporated into His grace toward us are never comprehended by the world. It is true that these things are expressed in terms that ordinary people can understand. But we are reminded that the natural man cannot discern the things of the Holy Spirit. In fact, they are foolishness to him – “because they are spiritually discerned.” See 1 Corinthians 2:14. In that both spiritual comfort and peace are ours by the grace of God, they have no concept of the experience of these things. Ordinary words are brought to life in the believer by the quickening power of the Spirit.

Secular definitions often express things quite well. We give a secular definition of peace: Peace can be a state of harmony or the absence of hostility. “Peace” can also be a non-violent way of life. “Peace” is used to describe the cessation of violent conflict. Peace can mean a state of quiet or tranquility — an absence of disturbance or agitation. Peace can also describe a relationship between any people characterized by respect, justice, and goodwill. Peace can describe calmness, serenity, and silence. This latter understanding of peace can also pertain to an individual’s sense of himself or herself, as to be “at peace” with one’s own mind. (Wikipedia). This and more were implied in the congratulatory message of the Angels at the Birth of Christ. What a glorious

announcement indeed and we note that along with “Glory to God in the highest,” was “on earth peace, good will toward men.” We compare this to the empty greetings that are said without force. His was the peace that passes understanding. Peace is not within the reach of fallen man, yet the Prince of Peace is able to incorporate His own peace into the very being of those He saves.

There is no salvation apart from peace with God and the peace of God. We are comforted by the Holy Spirit with the knowledge that both are accomplished in the person and work of Christ our Lord. Thus, the Holy Spirit becomes to us the source of our peace. There were many things that they were exposed to without full understanding. They would remember them later as the fullness of the Spirit would be their experience. There were things they assuredly understood even then but not to the depth to which they would come. The comforter would come alongside them to console and to reassure. It is He who seeks their peace and brings it to those to whom He is sent.

The greatest of care is here promised by the coming of the Spirit in this special way. Why is He come (and to all who know the Lord He is come)? He is sent of the Father. (Here we witness further evidence of our Trinitarian salvation). The One who decreed salvation is the

One who decrees the conditions that attend it. Why was He sent? Jesus here made it plain that He (the Spirit) would be sent in His name. It is at the request of the Only Begotten that He is sent. It is in view of who Jesus is and what He has done. Further, it was in view of what He would do the very next day – the trial and the cross loomed large before Him. What would He (the Spirit) do? He would bring the things of Christ, all that He had said and all that He had done to their remembrance. This is not such as might occur to the ordinary man – these things would be made alive in them. This is both unique and distinct from all other teachers and teaching. We are here reminded of, *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63).*

We rejoice at these words, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.” Again, we would think of peace with God and the peace of God. One commentator rendered this as “A peace I leave with you.” Jesus quickly distinguished it from all others. Our thoughts are often drawn to such passages as, *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (Romans 5:1).* This speaks to us of a necessary reconciliation with God. Who could be at peace with the knowledge of the awfulness of his sin and being such an offence to a Holy God? We will not belabor this point by suffice it to say that reconciliation is an absolute necessity. Thus, we read, *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (2 Corinthians 5:18).* That

reconciliation would be accomplished the next day at the cross. In much of today’s preaching men are not confronted with the need to be reconciled to God.

We pass on here to consider the possession of this peace. It is His peace, that He Himself has in all that He was given to do. It is regarding the Kingdom given Him – note His answer to Pilate. His work and what He accomplished is assured by the Father – “My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased.” The purpose of the Father is assured and will never be frustrated. It is His peace that He gives to us. It is continual and as eternal as He is. The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring the presence of Christ to us. He was leaving, but He was coming in a different way, and He will never leave us or forsake us. It is a living peace and enduring peace. Men cry peace when there is no peace. Our peace indwells us and is alive forevermore.

Based on this He may enforce confidence and say “Let not your heart be troubled...” We have much to disturb ever before us. The disciples were troubled at what they sensed happening. He adds “neither let it be afraid...” We may face the future fully assured of a joyous outcome. We have that ever before us that we are reconciled unto Him. And consider: *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21).*
bhs

There is a lot you can do to make a difference after you have prayed. But there is really nothing you can do to make a difference until you have prayed.

—H.B. Charles Jr.

The way to be anxious for nothing is to be prayerful in everything.

—H. B. Charles Jr

It is the student who must learn the lesson!

"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling" Philippians 2:12-13

People sometimes think that salvation imparts . . . godly virtues, fine qualities of Christian character, lovely traits of disposition, and elements of spiritual beauty-- without any cost or effort to the believer himself!

Christ's followers are transformed--old things pass away, and all things become new. Those who believe in Him, are fashioned into His image. But these blessings do not come easily. The heavenly graces are not put into our life, as one might hang up lovely pictures on the walls to adorn a home! They must be wrought into our life in a sense, by our own hands. We must work out our own salvation--although it is God who works in us, both to will and to work.

For example, patience is not put into anyone's life, as one brings in a piece of new furniture. You cannot merely receive patience as a gift from God. Patience is a lesson to be learned, through long and watchful self-discipline. Christ is the teacher--but you are the student, and it is the student who must learn the lesson! Not even Christ will learn it for you, to spare you the effort. Nor can it be made an easy lesson for you. It costs to grow patient, and you must pay the price yourself!

The same is true of all the elements of a godly and worthy character.

We are always at school in this world. God is teaching us the things we need to learn. The lessons are not easy, sometimes they are very hard! But the hardest lessons are the best--for they bring out in us the finest qualities, if only we learn them well.

Those, therefore, who find themselves in what may seem adverse conditions, compelled to face hardship, endure opposition, and pass through struggle--should quietly accept the responsibility; and, trusting in Christ for guidance and strength, go firmly and courageously forward--conscious that they have now an opportunity to grow strong, and develop in themselves the qualities of worthy and noble character! – J. R. Miller

From Ron Rumburg

Wm. Mason gave a very good account of our being kept by the power of God: "Glorious challenge of faith! Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect, Rom. 8:33. Not God the Father: for He chose them; He justifies them: His justice pardons them: His law is fulfilled for them: His truth is magnified in and by them: His mercy embraces them: His love is everlastingly fixed on them. God the Son will not. For He has fully discharged all dues, debts and demands against them. God the Spirit will not, for He is the comforter of them, witnesses of the Saviour to them, and the fulness of His Salvation for them. Who will? Satan, the accuser of the brethren of Christ, Rev. 12:10. But says our Judge, he is a liar, John 8:44. His evidence will not be heard in Court. Then, O my soul, honour thy Lord's grace and truth. Resist Satan steadfastly, in the faith, of thy full and free justification before God in Christ. Ever glory also, There is no Separation form the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, Rom. 8:39."

Bless the Lord oh, my soul, and all that is within me bless Him,
Ron