

Thomas Boston: "Believing, repenting, and the like, are the product of the new nature; and can never be produced by the old corrupt nature. The heart is shut against Christ: man cannot open it, only God can do it by His grace."

William Plumer: "Those who have honestly and heartily received the righteousness of Christ, will be sure to mark His footsteps and walk as He walked."

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. 43. What shall be done to the wicked at death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall at death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection and judgement of the great day.

(Luke 16:22-24; Ps. 49:14)

Q. 44. What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgement?

A. At the day of judgement, the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever.

(Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 25:41)

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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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SPIRIT FILLED BEHAVIORS

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (Ephesians 5:18-21)

It has now been many years ago that two men visited one of our church services. Hymns were sung, prayers were offered, and the Gospel was preached. They were quite attentive and were very polite as we dismissed and left the service. Their thoughts on the service were expressed to others who reported it to us. It was okay, but not spiritual enough. It was apparent that they equated open, outspoken, and animated activity with spirituality. The idea that someone could sit reverently and respectfully and listen to a message was lost to them. It is not to be denied that often the Spirit may move on both individuals and groups to the point that outward expression occurs. But such will never submit to human definitions as to what constitutes true spirituality.

We would rather submit to the biblical definitions given us by both precept and example. Paul expresses both in this passage. Being filled with the Spirit is explained to us by way of a contrast and we are told how such a state will be expressed. Often powerful lessons are derived from such contrasts as are presented here. Following the admonition to understand what the will of the Lord is (v. 17) Paul presents a contrast that would be understood by all. He compares the effects of being drunk with wine with the effects of being filled with the Spirit. Furthermore, the effects of

each are easily recognized by both the participant and the observer. We would note here that men become drunk with other things such as power, fame, pride, and self-righteousness in any form. All such things affect the outward behavior and again are easily observed in their actions and pursuits.

The work of the Spirit in us begins with salvation. It is the Spirit that quickens! We are born again of the Spirit of God. No man says that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3). It is God, the Holy Spirit who communicates the things of Christ to us and in us. It is He that brings life. And it is He, the Holy Spirit who comes alongside and is the designated comforter of the Lord's people.

A preacher from the past defined being filled with the Spirit as “the free and unhindered work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us.” Being filled with the Spirit is to be not only filled with Him but to also be given the gifts and graces He supplies. In some it is in an extraordinary manner and in others ordinarily but in all in such a way as honors God and benefits others.

The issue here is by whom or what we are being controlled. The Psalmist referred to being “made to drink the wine of astonishment.” The effect was to being overcome and controlled by the hard things the Lord had shown them. There is an obvious warning and condemnation of

drunkenness here. It was a common practice in heathen festivals and revelry (some things never change). It often occurred in the worship of idols. The parallel is easily noticed as being controlled by something producing an unnatural result. The natural faculties are inhibited or even disabled, and we note staggering, slurred speech, terrible behaviors, enhanced propensities to wickedness and the list goes on. Such action is far removed from that which is spiritual. The wisdom of God is countered by the enhanced foolishness of men. Spiritual led discernment in contrast to dulling of any ability to know God and the things of God. There is a lack of discipline and judgment as opposed to being subject to Christ in all things.

The expression of a Spirit filled person are listed in simple fashion in the next few verses. These things speak of mutual participation as a characteristic of Spirit enhanced fellowship. The first of these is speaking to yourselves. Obviously, we tend to think first of ordinary conversation. But then we are provided with a wonderful collection of inspired thoughts in the Psalms. The Psalmists spoke to themselves, uttered prayers to be imitated, expressed praise to the Most High God and so provided us with the very words we need to share with each other. Other men have been gifted with such ability as to both grasp and set to music thoughts that have blessed the saints for centuries. These things are played out in the heart and accomplish outward expression to each other. What a wonderful gift! All of this is to be ordered up unto the Lord. We are not mere entertainers; we are worshipers with the songs of redemption in our hearts.

The second of the evidence of being filled

with the Spirit is the giving of thanks. This in an ongoing activity of every true believer. In that the Spirit brings ever before us the things of Christ, we are ever aware of all that we owe to Him. We are brought preciously to know God through the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. To see such, Him engaged to assure our salvation along with His glory, is most blessed indeed. Thus, we reflect on the gift of His love and are filled with wonder. Indeed, "Two wonders I confess, the wonder of His glorious love, and my own worthlessness." We offer such thanks in the Name above them all. It is through Him and by Him that we have all and we dare not come in any other way.

The third thing here presented is submission. We do not stop at mere expression. Being Spirit filled translates into action, but not as the world sees it. Following verse 21 is a list of ways that submission is expressed. It is to be toward one another without recourse or condition. We are to follow the example of our Lord who submitted to the will of the Father, which included the cross and a visitation of wrath on Him for us. He truly surrendered all. We submit in the fear of the Lord. Pride has no standing before Him, and it must not have standing before others as we submit. The knowledge of His condescension shapes our attitude toward others.

We are reminded of, *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)*. Again, we look to verse 17 and the words of the Apostle: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Oh, that we might be found seeking a greater filling of Him, the Holy Spirit. *bhs*

Never let us read any portion of God's Word without looking up for divine teaching. Never let us imagine that we know all that is contained in any one verse of God's blessed Book--for there is a fullness in the holy Scriptures not to be found anywhere else. – James Smith

The happiness of Heaven!

(Thomas Sherman, "Divine Breathings; Or, a Pious Soul Thirsting after Christ")

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love Him!" 1 Corinthians 2:9

The vessel of our soul is too capacious to be filled with all the pleasures and delights the world put together. But hereafter, our pleasures and delights shall be too great for the most capacious vessel to hold! Our glory shall be so great, that power as well as goodness, shall be given by God Himself to renew and enlarge these vessels, that they may be capable of receiving and retaining that glory. Strength and love shall go forth together, to prepare and elevate our dispositions, that they may be suitable for such a transcendent and exalted state!

At present, we are too weak to bear such a weight of glory; therefore God will immortalize us, that we may be able to sustain it! And because our eternal joys cannot fully enter into us while in this world, we shall fully enter into them in heaven.

What fool would place only a few drops of carnal pleasures into so large a vessel as the soul; and neglect the spring, or rather the ocean of unspeakable bliss, and everlasting glory!

O my soul, what a glorious day is coming, when the vessels of mercy shall be cast into the ocean of mercy, and be filled to the very brim with divine mercy! Then the soul that is love-sick for Jesus--shall lie in the bosom of divine love, and forever be satisfied with unfathomable love! Then the children of God shall have a full fruition of God, and be forever satisfied with the presence of God! The joy of His glorious presence, the fullness of His joy, the sweetness of this fullness, the eternity of this sweetness--the heart of man can never adequately comprehend.

Lord, let the glory which you have prepared for me, turn my soul from the vanities of earth!

"You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand!" Psalm 16:11

I think distractions in prayer are often because we have let ourselves wander too far from the things that matter most. And so we slip into an easily interrupted, easily distracted frame of mind. —Amy Carmichael

Something to ponder:

"Make a journey every day to three mountains:

Go to Mount Sinai, and see your sins.

Go to Mount Calvary, and behold the Lamb of God.

Go to Mount Zion, and view the Heavenly City." --Frederick Marsh