

The Bible is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is now speaking. —A.W. Tozer

Genuine salvation consists not of giving glowing testimonies but in departing from evil, not in relating glorious experiences with God but in living a consistent life. —Dale Ralph Davis

The Baptist Catechism (Keach's Catechism)

1677

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Q. 67. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about worldly employments or recreations.

(Ezekiel 22:26; 23:38; Jer. 17:21; Neh. 13:15-17; Acts 20:7)

Q. 68. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, His challenging a special propriety in the seventh, His own example and His blessing the Sabbath day.

(Exodus 34:21; 31:16-17; Gen. 2:2-3)

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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 CHURCH

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

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GOD IS NOT MOCKED

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Galatians 6:6-8)

It is well to take a text such as this at face value and not try to read something into it. That God is not mocked is a statement of clear fact in that He is holy and impeccable in every way, but also, that He does not, will not, and cannot tolerate mockery. It is a plain statement as to the operations of God in His relationship with us. Typically, when this is quoted, or misquoted, it is abbreviated and applied in a very shallow way by saved and unsaved alike. Of course, the agricultural reference is not easily missed and so it seems somewhat proverbial. Taken apart from the context of grace and salvation such a text will appear legalistic, and man centered. Whereas the child of God acts in accordance with the nature received at the New Birth and is rewarded accordingly. Others see a far different result. God has placed us here with the ability to respond to His directions, through the prompting of the Spirit, and with a desire to please Him, and so to be in imitation of Christ.

In laying the basis for saying that God is not mocked, Paul defines a very important relationship between teachers and they who are taught. It is to be noted that there is disagreement here in that some commentators hold that the idea here is that those being taught should look to the material needs of the teacher. Others insist that it is rather that there should be fellowship or responsiveness between them. The matter of supporting the ministry and the minister of the Word is taught elsewhere.

Here the emphasis appears to be on the idea of fellowship. Paul, in his introductory remarks to the Romans wrote, *For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. (Romans 1:11-12)*. John MacArthur wrote of this, “Although this expression could refer to material compensation, the context suggests that Paul is referring to the spiritually and morally excellent things learned from the Word, in which they fellowship together. Paul uses this same term to describe the gospel (Rom 10:15; cf. Heb 9:11).”

So, it is that the Apostle would present a strong but loving warning to the Galatian believers. “Be not deceived...” The whole of the Epistle to the Galatians aims at the errors of the Judaizers who were attempting to deceive them. We would be warned as well in that many deceivers are in the world including the greatest deceiver of them all. They appear from many sources. They are the false prophets who were called out and identified by their errors throughout the Bible. Theirs is a message of peace to be had apart from Christ which is no peace. It is a message that bases promises on the achievements of fallen men. Peter warned those to whom he wrote: *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying*

the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Peter 2:1). The world, the flesh, and the devil conspire to pervert and to dilute the Gospel and we are so warned. We are to be warned of attempts at logical approaches from human appeal or understanding. That is, they observe an improper behavior in others or in themselves and begin to reason that this is not so bad or that nobody is being really offended. "God is not mocked!" Failure to fully believe the Word of God gives way to personal deception.

Emphasis must be laid on what we are to know of God. In this context it is well to be reminded that He is not a man: *And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. (1 Samuel 15:29).* And we remember Job's words as well: *For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. (Job 9:32).* We would further note that He is in providential control over all things. And we would further note that in reaping what we sow we are receiving, as His children, the loving correction of our Heavenly Father.

We are reminded here of the parable of the sower and that "the seed is the Word." This we would contrast with the investment in worldly things and again be reminded of the observation of James: *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (James 1:14-15).* Or the words of the prophet:

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up. (Hosea 8:7). Sowing to the flesh is yielding to the old nature. There is corruption now and, where these things continue the hope of salvation is absent. It is to practice the religion of the flesh.

In sowing to the Spirit, we experience a present reality with present rewards as well as Christ in us experienced as the "hope of glory." Isaac Watts expressed it well in writing "The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets Before we reach the heavenly fields Or walk the golden streets." That word is sown as it is given us to sow. I have often meditated on the thought of rewards. It seems that the tendency is to think only of the future. I am reminded of the Lord's words to Abraham: "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward." As we walk in the yoke with Christ (Matthew 11:29-30) how sweet the experience of walking with Him. Loving obedience to God is its own reward. That we should be allowed such a privilege is a marvel.

Thus, Paul continues with words of encouragement: *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10).* O that our lives might be so ordered as to rejoice in both sowing and reaping and so be assured of our future with Him. *bhs*

The certainty with which God speaks is unmistakable. This is apparent in the following phrases from the text. We should notice the use of the first person pronoun "I" (God is the one who acts), followed by an unconditional promise (He will not fail): "I will take you from the nations." "[I will] gather you from all the lands." "[I will] bring you into your own land." "I will sprinkle clean water on you." "I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols." "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you." "I will take the heart of stone from out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." "I will put My Spirit within you." "[I will] cause you to walk in My statutes." There

is not the least measure of doubt or uncertainty in these affirmations. God is not musing aloud or granting us audience to His hopes and dreams. He is not speaking about what He would do if He could gain our cooperation. Rather, He speaks as one who “does whatever He pleases” and who “works all things according to the counsel of His will” (Ps. 115:3; Eph. 1:11). Notice also that God is not only telling us what He will do in the life of every Christian, but He is also guaranteeing the outcome of His work: “You shall be clean.” You will “walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” You will “dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers.” “You shall be My people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:24-28 NJKV).

– Paul Washer, *The Gospel Call and True Conversion*

Providence not only undertakes but perfects what concerns us. It goes through with its designs, and accomplishes what it begins. No difficulty so clogs it, no cross accident falls in its way, but it carries its design through it. Its motions are irresistible and uncontrollable; He performs it for us. – John Flavel, *The Mystery of Providence*

I once attended a church where it was the custom of the pastor to pause in his liturgies or sermons to say, “God is good,” to which the congregation would reply, “All the time.” Then he would say, “All the time,” and the congregation would answer, “God is good.” It was a recital of the simplest of truths—that goodness is not an occasional attribute of God, not an infrequent disposition, but a constant one. It was meant to remind us that God’s goodness does not vary with our circumstances but is fully present and on display in our worst moments as well as our best, in our most lamentable experiences as well as our most joyful. And though the pastor’s little phrase may have become trite over time, though I may have grumbled about it in the past, today, right now, nothing is more precious to me, nothing is more important to me, than this: God is good all the time, and all the time God is good. – Tim Challies, *Seasons of Sorrow*

I long to see Him receive the glory and honor and praise He is denied in this world. I will delight to see Jesus appear in glory as our great God and Savior. When Henry Martyn first went as a missionary to India, he entered a Hindu temple and saw them worshiping false gods. He wrote in his diary, “I ran out of the temple with tears. I cannot endure existence if Jesus is to be so dishonored.” Does it bother you at all that Jesus is so dishonored in our world? Martyn said he could not bear to live if Christ was demeaned. I cannot take any more of this dishonoring of Christ either. It makes me long for His glorious appearing, not just for my sake, but for His.

– John MacArthur, *The Heart of the Bible*

Who is Jesus? A non-vacillating friend. He perseveres. Heading into the final week of his earthly life, John’s Gospel tells us, “having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end” (John 13:1). Jesus binds himself to his people. No expiration date. No end of the road. Our side of the commitment will falter and stumble, but his never does. – Dane Ortlund, *Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners*