

God has written a heavenly, perfect story for us that will start the moment our story in this world ends. It's a story that will never end, and it will be so good we'll never want it to end. — David Murray

The exercise of love is to be in strict conformity to the revealed will of God. —A.W. Pink

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. 69. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

(Exodus 20:12)

Q. 70. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requires the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

(Lev. 19:32; 1 Peter 2:17; Rom. 13:1; Eph. 5:21-22; Eph. 6:1-5, 9; Col. 3:19-22; Rom. 12:10)

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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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WHATSOEVER YOU DO

*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
(Colossians 3:15-17)*

Thanksgiving is a deeply Spiritual theme that is referenced in many contexts throughout the Word of God. In doing a simple search on the word “Thanksgiving” many of these are revealed. Widening the search to include the words “thanks” or “thankful” yields over a hundred references. The biblical references infer so much more than the shallow forms that are often expressed at this time of the year in conjunction with the Thanksgiving Holiday. Quite often these are made without a reference to the giver implying that they are just happy about their situation. The acknowledgement of the grace of God in His people has always been high in the order of ordained practices of the faith of God’s elect. This is emphasized in this text.

First mentions of the word occur in the book of Leviticus and entailed offerings to confirm what was being addressed. Many of the offerings included a sacrifice of thanksgiving. This is often a difficult concept at times in that we tend to think simply of saying thank you. A genuine expression of thanksgiving must include the separation of oneself from any consideration of merit and acknowledges that all is the doing of the giver. This is especially true of all of the elements of our salvation, and this was what was portrayed in all the Old Testament offerings. Nehemiah referred to the days of David and Asaph and the singers of

praise and thanksgiving unto God (Nehemiah 12:46). In Psalm 26 David prayed that he might publish with the “voice of thanksgiving.” The Psalmist in Psalm 95 invoked coming before the Lord with thanksgiving which erupted in a joyful noise. In the “Old One Hundred” we are moved to thanksgiving as we enter into His gates. Thus, we encounter multiple examples of those erupting in thanksgiving as well as many encouragements to thanksgiving.

In Psalm 116 we find thanksgiving expressed as a sacrifice in and of itself along with the commitment to offer it. Hosea spoke of the “calves of our lips” as did the writer of Hebrews. Even so, the necessity of the grace of God is acknowledged. We have often quoted Jonah saying, “Salvation is of the Lord.” But we read the commitment completely accompanied by thanksgiving. *But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. (Jonah 2:9).* The precedents are unmistakable in thanksgiving. In anticipation of Zion’s future Isaiah incorporated thanksgiving: *For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. (Isaiah 51:3).*

How easy it is to take scripture direction at face value. That is, it is just what we are supposed to do. Two errors occur. One we miss the spiritual experience and divine fellowship that is necessarily involved. And we fail to see that these things are not without purpose in the will of God for us. Paul seems to reference both issues in writing to the Corinthians. *For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4:15)*. Here thanksgiving in acknowledgement of abounding grace is ultimately found to glorify God. We would see that it is in the depth of Spiritual expression we discover a joyous connection with our God in union and communion.

Paul begins this chapter with direction for our affections. The result is a mortification of the things of the flesh and a putting on of the regenerated self. This, of course, changes every relationship and especially that which we have with our Blessed Lord (v. 10). It is to Him that all is due as we consider the awful price paid that we might entertain peace and find reason for thanksgiving. There can be no peace in a heart where a work of grace has not occurred and therefore no cause for thanksgiving is found. We acknowledge the Lamb of God. Men have long sought in vain for peace without knowing what it is. God has ordained that the life of His people should be governed by the peace that He has obtained through Christ our Lord. Thus, as we assess our situation in Him, we see assurance of the love of God expressed in such a way as to know that we are reconciled to Him. We are further assured that no enemy shall succeed against us. We are further assured that every

need is met in Him for all eternity and so it follows – “be ye thankful.”

Often in our consideration of the sovereignty of God we hesitate to think of “letting” anything occur. The context here is that of being sensitive of and responsive to both the peace of God and the engrafted Word of God. These are to be lively issues and the outcome is wisdom from above, interactivity in such things as teaching and admonishing in a most enjoyable way – singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.

To invoke the name of the Lord Jesus is to claim the merit of all that He is and all that He has done. He is God manifest in the flesh. And He is the man Christ Jesus. It is only on the basis of His finished work that we may claim anything or have any ability, which includes “whatsoever you do.” As we speak and act, our actions are to be tempered with the giving of thanks. Not merely the flippant “thank you Lord,” but rather a deep sense of His presence with us in all ways enabling and empowering in all things by His Spirit. If we cannot give thanks for what we say or do, a reexamination of our thoughts is in order. It is to God our Father that thanksgiving is directed. John reported, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)*. John Gill wrote: “...nor is there any other way of bringing and offering sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to God; nor are they nor can they be acceptable to God by, and through any other, but by Him alone.” From F. B. Meyer we read, “The thought of Him is the touchstone of trial as well as the talisman of victory. A thankful heart makes a victorious and attractive character.”
bhs

When we find ourselves yawning instead of yearning, the only remedy is to repent, confess our sins, open the Scriptures, and hear a reviving word from the Lord. “The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul” (Ps. 19:7). Lose the excitement of living by faith, a day at a time, and you will end up on a costly detour. –Warren Wiersbe

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME

- He assumed my human nature so I could partake of His divine nature (John 1:1, 14; 2 Peter 1:4).
- He became poor so I could become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- He was born of woman so I could be born of God (Galatians 4:4; John 1:12f).
- He became the Son of Man so I could become a son of God (Luke 19:10; Galatians 3:26).
- He was born under God's law and fulfilled it so I could be redeemed from its curse, and so it could be fulfilled in me, and so I could be liberated from the law of sin and death (Galatians 4:4f; Romans 8:1-4).
- He gave Himself for me so I could be presentable to God (2 Timothy 2:14).
- He was made a curse for me so I could be blessed by God (Galatians 3:13f).
- He was made sin for me so I could become God's righteousness in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- He was condemned so I could be justified (Isaiah 53:11).
- He endured God's wrath so I could enjoy God's grace (Isaiah 53:4f; Romans 5:12-21).
- He died so I could live (Romans 5:8-10).
- He suffered the hell I deserve so I could enjoy Him in heaven (Psalm 18:4f; John 17:24).
- He did all this for all who believe in Him. Do you?

– Daniel E. Parks

From David Mathis, *Rich Wounds*

The cross is not simply a component of the gospel message that tips nonbelievers into the kingdom through faith. The early church saw that the cross was “the most astonishing act of divine self-disclosure that has ever occurred” (D.A. Carson, *The Cross and Christian Ministry*, p 16). It reveals to us God himself: his ways in the world (wisdom), how to get right with him (righteousness), how to be genuinely holy (sanctification), and what it means to be bought back from the world (redemption). Which is why Paul went on to say, “I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2)—not because his preaching was narrow and constrained but because the cross is so deeply significant and all-pervasive.

Consider these things with all seriousness, and without a moment's delay. Life and death are set before you—life, if you sincerely believe in the Savior; death, if you disregard him. Consider the case of a malefactor, condemned to die for the violation of the laws of his country. The sentence is passed upon him, and the day approaches for the execution of it. His state is dreadful, his danger is great—but not to be compared with yours. O that you may be deeply and abidingly convinced of your perilous situation! On this conviction your safety depends!

– John Fawcett, *Christ Precious to Those Who Believe*

“Faith is not believing in spite of evidence; rather, it is obeying in spite of the consequences.” –Alistair Begg, *Brave by Faith*