

I know not what you may have been in your past life – it matters nothing. You may have broken every commandment under heaven; you may have sinned with a high hand against light and knowledge; you may have despised a father’s warnings and a mother’s tears; you may have run greedily into every excess of riot, and plunged into every kind of abominable behavior – you may have turned your back entirely on God, His day, His house, His ministers, His word. I say again it matters nothing. Do you feel your sins? Are you sick of them? Are you ashamed of them? Are you weary of them? Then come to Christ just as you are, and Christ’s blood shall make you clean. J.C. Ryle

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. 100. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is an holy ordinance, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, signifies our ingrafting into Christ and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

(Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27)

Q. 101. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ; and to none other.

(Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:6; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12-36; Acts 10:47-48)

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WXTH-LP 101.7 FM– In Richwood

Services:

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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ENEMIES OF THE CROSS

Philippians 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

The cross of Christ is absolutely essential to preaching the Gospel. Anything that attacks the cross or the preaching of the cross is anything but the Gospel. Paul had called attention to the nature of a proper walk with respect to the cross in himself and others who were with him. He was not bragging. Rather he was declaring the result of a proper view of the Cross of our Lord. His warning here is strong and emphatic. In clinging to the cross of Christ, true believers will be constrained to walk in a way that is consistent with the manner of Paul and especially of Christ our Lord.

The necessity and importance of the Cross is witnessed by all the New Testament writers. With one accord they show not only the fact of the Cross, but also the effect of the Cross. It exposed the anger of God toward sinners and the means appointed to deliver such as believe on Him. Only in the preaching of the Cross is there a message of hope. When one has the awfulness of his sin and depravity revealed to him there is none other given to who we must look. If Christ has not effectively borne our sins and suffered the penalty for them, we have no hope. Without the Cross there is no salvation. The warnings of the Bible often uncover the deceit of being “politically correct.” We are told to tone down certain things even if they are true. This is not to suggest that common courtesy be neglected. But it is to condemn the practice of rewording Bible truth so that it does not upset anyone. It would seem that Paul would certainly condemn those who claim

salvation but walk in an ungodly way. Where we cease to call sin out for what it is, this practice would not seem so bad. So, it has become unpopular to preach of just condemnation and the judgment of our Holy God. We must be respectful of individual rights of others and not suggest that they might just be overruled by God’s right and power to do as He wills. So then, we are faced with legalized murder and unmentionable perversion and then told it may be illegal to voice any negative thought about them. It would seem that they would accuse God of “hate crimes.” Much then of religion has focused on being acceptable to the masses rather than approved of God. Religious societies have recognized and approved and claimed God’s blessing on things that the Bible clearly condemns. They have a message, but it is one of “social redemption” and sees no real need of the Cross. Salvation is claimed as the result of human invention and the Cross of Christ is seen as unnecessary for anything but human example. Such are the “enemies of the Cross of Christ.”

It is not enough that they deny the truth of redemption through a substitute, “The Lamb of God.” Man is by nature proud and will attack anything that threatens that pride. Thus, to emphasize the sinfulness and sins of men by showing the awfulness of the Cross and what Christ endured there is offensive to them. Furthermore, the Cross declares that God took the matter out of the hands of men and made His own provision for the sins of His people. The

self-righteous Pharisees hated the fact that Christ exposed their sinfulness and the religionist of today reacts in the same manner. When men are taught to look to themselves or to anything other than Christ and Him crucified their teachers are found to be “the enemies of the Cross of Christ.”

It would be easy to become antagonistic toward such people in a like manner as they are toward the Cross. Paul wept over this aggression. It was no doubt a cause of grief in Paul that the person and work of Christ should be held in such contempt. But it would seem that he was grieved for those who would act in such a manner as this. Both the issue of false religion and an ungodly walk were a source of grief. To the Judaizers of Galatia he wrote: *Galatians 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.* John on the other hand called out the offence of

rebellious sin: *1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* But, the answer of Paul was to walk in a manner depicting a right view of the Cross.

Such a view will produce certain characteristics. There will be humility as one realizes the awfulness of his sin and the awful price paid on the cross. There will be a life of submission to God. It will be seen and known that they are not their own rather that they are bought with a price. Strangely, there is an unexplained joy in those who are the prisoners of Christ in love. There will be a manifestation of peace about the redeemed of the Lord. It is born out of union and communion with Christ. There is the realization that the reason of God’s anger has been taken away and He retains no charge against them. The nature of the Kingdom and the citizens of it is “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” *bhs.*

BOASTING

Spiritual Boasting. Spiritual things are not to be boasted of. One can boast of worldly riches, and the paper money will not fly away unspent nor will the amount magically decrease, but the spiritual riches you boast of vanish with the telling. — Watchman Nee, *Leadership*, Vol. 8, no. 1. See: John 8:39; 1 Corinthians 4:18; James 4:16

Pride Goeth Before a Fall. *Homiletics* (Jan.-Mar./96) told of a turtle who wanted to spend the winter in Florida, but he knew he could never walk that far. He convinced a couple of geese to help him, each taking one end of a piece of rope, while he clamped his vise-like jaws in the center. The flight went fine until someone on the ground looked up in admiration and asked, “Who in the world thought of that?” Unable to resist the chance to take credit, the turtle opened his mouth to shout, “I did—” —*Leadership*, Vol. 17, no. 2. See: Proverbs 11:2; Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 27:1.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

(Most of this issue was taken from the Report of February 27, 2011)

MURMURING AGAINST GOD

What a declaration is this: "He sendeth forth His commandment upon earth: His word runneth very swiftly. He giveth snow like wool: He scattereth the hoar frost like ashes. He casteth forth His ice like morsels: who can stand before His cold? He sendeth out His word, and melteth them: He causeth His wind to blow, and the waters flow" (Psalm 147:15-18).

The mutations of the elements are beneath God's Sovereign control. It is God who withholds the rain, and it is God who gives the rain when He wills, where He wills, as He wills, and on whom He wills. Weather Bureaus may attempt to give forecasts of the weather, but how frequently God mocks their calculations!

Sun 'spots,' the varying activities of the planets, the appearing and disappearing of comets (to which abnormal weather is sometimes attributed), atmospheric disturbances, are merely secondary causes, for behind them all is God Himself.

Let His Word speak once more:

"And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereon it rain not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith the LORD. I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith the LORD. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up into your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith the LORD" (Amos 4:7-10).

Truly, then, God governs inanimate matter. Earth and air, fire and water, hail and snow, stormy winds and angry seas, all perform the word of His power and fulfill His Sovereign pleasure. Therefore, when we complain about the weather we are, in reality, murmuring against God.

-from "The Sovereignty of God" by Arthur W. Pink

Sin Is A Spiritual Disease by Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Sin is not only a crime, for which we were condemned to die and which Christ purchased for us the pardon of, but it is a disease, which tends directly to the death of our souls and which Christ provided for the cure of.

By His stripes (that is, the sufferings He underwent) He purchased for us the Spirit and grace of God to mortify our corruptions, which are the distempers of our souls, and to put our souls in a good state of health, that they may be fit to serve God and prepared to enjoy Him.

And by the doctrine of Christ's cross, and the powerful arguments it furnished us with against, sin, the dominion of sin is broken in us and we are fortified against that which feeds the disease.