

Charles Spurgeon: "Divine Providence is a downy pillow for an aching head, and a blessed salve for the sharpest pain. He who can feel that his times are in the hand of God, need not tremble at anything that is in the hand of man!"

J.C. Ryle: "There is no such thing as chance, luck or accident in the Christian journey through this world. All is arranged and appointed by God. And all things are working together for the believer's good!"

Spurgeon's Catechism
Compiled by Charles Haddon Spurgeon
[1834 -1892]

"Heir of the Puritans" *(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)*

55.Q. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, "Thou shalt not kill."

56.Q. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life (Acts 16:28), or the life of our neighbour unjustly (Gen. 9:6), or whatever tends to it (Prov. 24:11-12)

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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

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

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THE DAYSMAN

For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.

(Job 9:32-33)

Job is considered by many to be the oldest book in the Bible. As such we might expect it to be the farthest removed from personal references to Christ and the means of redemption. Yet, we find Job often declaring his lack of ability to be just with God. He is quick to acknowledge that he is among those who are “few of days and full of trouble.” He even declares both the need and promise of redemption in saying: *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Job 19:25-26.* In declaring his need for a “daysman” between he and God he reveals a level of understanding that is sadly missing with many today.

So many labor under the illusion that they may present themselves before God at their own will and pleasure. They expect acceptance with God and some even assert it as their right and God’s obligation to be accepted. Such thought displays an obvious lack of understanding of the holiness of God and the distance between Himself and sinners. We can hear the objection at such a statement in that God is often portrayed as a benevolent provider dependent on men to work His will. In the strictest sense, God is unapproachable by sinful men. We note the action taken with the fall in the Garden of Eden. The blood of innocent

animals was shed to clothe the nakedness of Adam and Eve. They were ejected from the Garden and Cherubim with flaming swords were sent to guard the way of the tree of life. From that time forward men would only be spared the justice and judgment of God by the shedding of blood – the innocent in the place of the guilty.

These thoughts in no way take anything from the love of God for His people. But His is an unconditional love and His is an uncompromising holiness. We consider the word of Habakkuk in saying: *Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he? Habakkuk 1:13.* How can such be reconciled? Men are alike sinful and unacceptable to God and they are without merit that would recommend them to the favor of God. Men persist in their pride to believe they can change themselves. All they can do is imagine and imitate change. It is only when they, by virtue of regeneration (the New Birth) are awakened to their undone condition and the just demands God in His holiness that they cry out to God. At that point their thoughts of their separation from God become intolerable.

Job had served the Lord and knew true fellowship with Him. Now his perception was

that God was not only out of sight, but out of touch with him. His terrible grief at the loss of his family and possessions was great. The pain of his physical suffering was excruciating. The insensitivity of his wife and friends was frustrating. But the worst of all was that he felt abandoned by God, and he did not understand why. Yet Job did not abandon true faith. *In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. Job 1:22.* Job understood the concept of substitution in that he offered burnt offerings for his children. But how could he communicate or plead his own case before God?

A “daysman” is here understood to be an umpire or an arbitrator or perhaps best – a mediator. It would seem that Job is lamenting the absence of such a person and is praying for one. In any event since he seemed to be completely out of touch with God, he needed another to contact Him. The thought is very apt. It would have to be someone who could communicate with both and could touch both. He would have to be a proper representative of both. We often hear of labor disputes being resolved by an arbitrator. That is a person who clearly understands the grievances of both parties and is acceptable by both as trustworthy to make a fair decision. Job needed someone who could completely understand his situation and plead his case before God. He never once devalued the most high position of God and so knew that this would have to be a unique and

very special person. It is just such a person that we have in Christ.

The writer of Hebrews tells us of His qualification to touch Job and us. *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15.* Paul understood the divine necessity in declaring Christ to be God manifest in the flesh. Jacob saw Him as the stairway that reached from the lowly position where the exile lay to Heaven. Christ alluded to this in describing Himself to Nathaniel.

The labor arbitrator takes into consideration the demand of both parties and resolves the issue in his own mind and then hands down a decision that is binding on both. As Christ hung suspended between Heaven and earth, He bore the sins of His people in His body on the tree. The justice of God demanded satisfaction and the holiness of God required that His wrath be poured out on the very soul of Christ. All of the sins of His people were accounted for, and justice was satisfied, and the holiness of God was vindicated. Truly, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

We rejoice at knowing that, *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.* And so it is that we are brought into eternal union and bliss with God in Christ our Lord. *bhs*

(Adapted from article on February 24, 2013)

“FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU” (Isaiah 41:10)

A father tells his young son to go to his grandmother’s house a short way down the street because she has prepared lunch for him. The boy gladly does so because he loves to go to her house. Shortly after sundown, the father again tells his son to go to his grandmother’s house because she has something to give to him. The boy now says he is afraid to do so because he fears the dark and what he imagines may be in it. The father tells the boy “Fear not, for I will go with you.” The boy now fearlessly goes to his grandmother’s house – for his father is with him.

So, it is with God's people. For He tells them, "Fear not, for I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10). And they remember what God's presence has always meant to His people. He was with them when He delivered them from Egyptian bondage. He was with them when He ushered them through the Red Sea on dry ground and then destroyed their foes in it. He was with them in the cloud during their wanderings in the wilderness, leading them in their journey and providing shade to them in the day and light to them in the night. He was with them when He brought them through the Jordan River on dry ground. He was with them when they conquered all their foes in Canaan. He was with the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, for He walked about with them in the flames, so that the flames did not hurt them. He was with His disciples when their boat was about to sink in the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and stilled the winds and billows and brought them safely to the shore.

When God is with you, you need not fear. –Daniel E. Parks

The Bible teaches that God not only created the universe but also upholds and sustains it day by day, hour by hour. Scripture says that Christ, the Son of God, "upholds the universe by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1: 3). As theologian A. H. Strong said, "Christ is the originator and upholder of the universe. . . . In him it consists, or holds together, from hour to hour. The steady will of Christ constitutes the law of the universe and makes it a cosmos instead of a chaos, just as his will brought it into being in the beginning." [1] All things are indebted for their existence to the continuous sustaining action of God exercised through His Son. Nothing exists of its own inherent power of being. Nothing in all creation stands or acts independently of the Lord's will. The so-called laws of nature are nothing more than the physical expression of the steady will of Christ. The law of gravity operates with unceasing certainty because Christ continuously wills it to operate. The chair I am sitting on while I write these words holds together because the atoms and molecules in the wood are held in place by His active will. The stars continue in their courses because He keeps them there. It is God "who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing" (Isaiah 40: 26). –Jerry Bridges

Take time. Give God time to reveal Himself to you. Give yourself time to be silent and quiet before Him, waiting to receive, through the Spirit, the assurance of His presence with you, His power working in you. Take time to read His Word as in His presence, that from it you may know what He asks of you and what He promises you. Let the Word create around you, create within you a holy atmosphere, a holy heavenly light, in which your soul will be refreshed and strengthened for the work of daily life. –Hudson Taylor's *Spiritual Secret*