

The gospel isn't a summons to work harder to reach God, it's the story of how God sovereignly worked all things together to reach you. —Burk Parsons

We...don't seem fearful enough, not nearly as exasperated or concerned about the certain and dreadful end of our unbelieving neighbors as we should be.
—Elliot Clark

The Baptist Catechism

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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

1. Q. Who is the first and chiefest being?

A. God is the first and chiefest being (Is. 44:6; 48:12; Ps. 97:9).

2. Q. Ought every one to believe there is a God?

A. Everyone ought to believe there is a God (Heb. 11:6); and it is their great sin and folly who do not (Ps. 14:1).

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Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

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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THE WILL OF MY FATHER

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

The Sermon on the Mount is unlike any before or since. Therein are the true issues of the heart addressed by our Lord in a most emphatic and searching way. In the course of the sermon Jesus takes the superficial understanding of the legalists and makes the real issues to be matters of the heart. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting are shown to invoke both the love of God and the love of one's neighbor. It is evident that these things are assumed to be matters of faith and practice. We are directed in all things "...to seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness..." Having delivered such a comprehensive message concerning the issues of life, He ends the message by revealing the standard by which men shall be finally judged. There is often a vast difference in faith and practice. It is to be understood that believing on and trusting in Jesus Christ our Lord is at the root of doing the "will of My Father." That which distinguishes between true and false profession is what the word "Lord" means to the person saying it.

It is a matter of reality that not everyone shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Many are given to such expressions as "thank the Lord," or "the Lord was looking out for me today," and other such incidental mentions of the Lord's name. While our Lord's words here speak of exclusion, they reinforce the fact that some shall enter the Kingdom. While the gate is straight, and the way narrow, some do find it. The

parable that follows in this chapter depicts those whose house is built on a solid rock.

Christ often raised the same question in the course of His ministry with such challenges as, *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)*. This statement is, no doubt, hateful to those who do not know Him in the true sense of the word. This is especially true if they think that they made the decision as to Him being their Lord. They are trusting what they declare and not in Him. Thus, they lack a full submission to the "will of the Father" and that is what our Lord demands and is to what He leads us. The will of the Father is not mere good deeds or a pious attitude. When some informed the Lord that some of His family was waiting to see Him, He replied in this way: *And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother. (Matthew 12:49-50)*. But especially we would remember: *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:40)*. And we would be reminded that the will of God is the search of every true believer. *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

(Romans 12:2). Paul wrote thusly to the Ephesians that they exhibit a true desire to serve, *Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; (Ephesians 6:6).*

In the verse following we read that, *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (Matthew 7:22).* Their plea (and it will be a plea) will be based on what they consider themselves to have done. Sovereignty of a sort will be acknowledged – creator, ruler, etc. They will lay claim to having done all sorts of wonderful things such as prophesying and miracles. But we remember those such as Jannes and Jambres, Balaam, Saul, and Caiphas the high priest as he was guiding the efforts to kill our Lord. We are reminded of the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 as to all he could be and yet be nothing without a true love of Christ – sounding brass, etc. even to giving his body to be burned.

What they will not say fills volumes. Such as, *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (Revelation 5:9).* They will not confess, “thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” They will not sue for mercy since they have never experienced the need for it. They have rather trusted to works, decisions, morality, and so on rather than claiming the merit of Christ only. As to their

claim of doing wonderful works, God does as He wills, even with the unsaved.

An awful pronouncement follows: *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:23).* The most precious thing to believers is the consciousness of knowing and being known -- *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his... (2 Timothy 2:19).* Since He is omniscient, the thought is not that He did not know of them: *For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalms 1:6).* The fact is that He never knew them in a loving relationship in which they loved Him above all else. *But if any man love God, the same is known of him. (1 Corinthians 8:3).* He had never known them as devoted sons and daughters. He had never known them in a single good work done exclusively for His glory. There was no conformity to the image of Christ.

In that the Lord calls our attention to these things, we are made to know of what our profession, our faith, and our lives must consist – “... Christ is all, and in all.” And we would also be reminded that, *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. (1 Corinthians 12:3).*

O that we might ever be found doing the will of the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and knowing that it is all of His mercy and grace that we do so. *bhs*

THE FACT IS, AS BELIEVERS, IT IS NOT ABOUT US. IT IS NOT ABOUT MY HAPPINESS, MY JOY, MY WELLBEING. IT IS ABOUT THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST. THE ONLY MEANS TO REAL JOY AND CONTENTMENT IS TO MAKE HIS GLORY THE SUPREME OBJECTIVE IN MY LIFE. —ELISABETH ELLIOT

The Secret of a Blessed, Useful Life – Tim Challies (Blog October 29, 2023)

The Lord calls many of us to live humble and quiet lives, lives that are lived far more in the mundane than in the spotlight. And truly, even the most exceptional of men and women still spend most of their time in obscurity, laboring in secret, carrying out their tasks far from human eyes. But this does not at all mean that our lives are wasted or that we are failing to meet God's expectations for us. F.B. Meyer explains well in this brief excerpt from his works.

The clue to life's aims; the philosopher's stone which will turn everything into gold; the secret of a blessed, useful life is to be found much rather in what we are, than in what we do.

The Beatitudes with which our Lord opened the great program of Christianity all turn upon character rather than upon action, and the blessedness which He promises is to the meek, the pure in heart, the peacemaker.

The true policy of life, therefore, is to stay just where we are; to believe that to be what and where we are is God's will for us; and to endeavor to be the noblest, sweetest, purest, strongest possible. Not to fret because the sphere is obscure; not to be jealous of the position occupied by others; not to allow the peace of the inner life to be broken by the feverish desire to be something else; but to be quiet, evincing all that nobility of disposition and character which the opportunity and occasion call for.

For men to be strong, thoughtful, considerate of women and of the weak, tender to little children, self-controlled, able to command the tides that sweep through heart and thought. For women to be pure and devout, gentle and modest, adorned with the jewels of the meek and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is of great price; and to be this constantly, in days of fog as well as of sunshine, of illness as of buoyant strength.

This surely will extract from the roughest and most toilsome path the largest amount of blessedness that this world can give.

THE SINNERS JESUS CHRIST WILL NOT SAVE

God's Word says "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). He came to save only sinners, for He said, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Matthew 9:13). And He came to save all kinds of sinners, even "the chief of sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). Therefore, there is no sinner too great, too low, too degenerate, too radical, too far, for Jesus Christ to save.

But there are two sorts of sinners Jesus Christ will not save.

First, Jesus Christ will not save those who love their sins too much to repent of them. Second, Jesus Christ will not those who refuse to trust in Him alone for their salvation, and trust in some work they do in order to be saved.

Will Jesus Christ save you? – Daniel E. Parks