

If you have suffered deeply, you are onto something that most people aren't. You know that this life is flawed. Strangely, that is a good thing! Now allow that to move you toward God, to renew your faith in him and your need of him.

—Tim Lane

The Baptist Catechism  
AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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Riverside Baptist Church)

38. Q. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace (2 Thess. 2:13), whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph. 4:23, 24), and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness (Rom. 6:4,6; 8:1).

39. Q. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience (Rom. 5:1, 2, 5), joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5, 17), increase of grace (Pr. 4:18), and perseverance therein to the end (1 John 5:13; 1 Pet. 1:5).

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Services:

Sunday Morning 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

## THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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### ANOTHER REASON TO PRAY

*Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2).*

The second of Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians was a reinforcement of the first but in a more direct manner. Specifically, he dealt with the "Man of Sin," and the nature of the opposition that both they and Paul were facing. Of particular importance is the encouragement given them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter -- *But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).* Believers in all generations are warned that there is a war against the Word of God and especially the fact Christ is the Word made flesh. The Word is described as an offensive weapon as we are exhorted to stand: *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (Ephesians 6:14-15).* As we consider the contempt for the Word down through history and even now in our society, we remember that one form of judgment promised was, *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.*

*(Amos 8:11-12).* Are we thus being judged? We consider the conditions in the Land as Samuel came to minister before the Lord: *And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. (1 Samuel 3:1).* There were no prophets, no visions, and there seemed to be a general lack of concern for the Word itself. The Lord, in that day, begin to speak to young Samuel.

It is safe to conclude that the reason of so much diversity and corruption today in both society and religion is a neglect of the Word of God. Therefore, we find willingness to compromise, nullify, and misapply the Word of God to accommodate individual tastes. Our prayer should be to be delivered from such perversion of the Word and rather to be directed into an affinity for and an allegiance to the Word of God and the God of the Word as we patiently wait on our Lord Jesus Christ.

The primary objective of this epistle was the comfort and encouragement of a persecuted people. He employed a true means of accomplishing that goal. He called on them to pray for him! I have at times, in seeking to minister to the sick and even dying, ask them to pray for me. One might ask why would you do that? It is a means to draw them to engage in what we are called to do in interceding for each other and so to put them in touch with the God of all comfort. Paul would cite specific reasons for soliciting their prayers for him. First, it would

be that the word of the Lord would have “free course.” The words here have the meaning of “to run or walk hastily (literally or figuratively): - have course, run.” (Strong).” Thayer adds the idea of “doctrine rapidly propagated.” A second desire is that it would be glorified (the word from which we get doxology) indicating the perception of Christ in it. Paul calls them to witness the desires of their own hearts. The Thessalonians had experienced that free running Word of God in hearing the Gospel and they were moved to glorify God. Is it so with us?

And so, we read other of Paul’s prayer requests and all point in the same direction – the propagation of the Word. It was for utterance and boldness (Ephesians 6:19-20); for an open door of utterance (Colossians 4:3). We see the result when the Word has free course: *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7).* Despite the opposition by such as Herod, who was eaten of worms, we read *But the word of God grew and multiplied. (Acts 12:24).* The effect was noted following Paul’s message to the Gentiles at Antioch in Pisidia -- *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. (Acts 13:48-49).* To the Corinthians Paul wrote: *For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. (1 Corinthians 16:9).* But we note a word of confidence to Timothy:

*Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. (2 Timothy 2:9).*

Paul gave further explanation for his prayer request. It was to be delivered from men who oppose. They are described as unreasonable – that is, out of place and injuriously wicked. And those here called wicked; they that are, in their essential character, hurtful as has been manifested in many since the fall. The thoughts here include the subtlety of the deceiver. Thus, this can be a difficult doctrine for many to accept whatever appears on the surface. Paul cited the reason as being the absence of true faith. “...all men have not faith.” Faith as it is set forth here manifests moral conviction based in the truthfulness of God. There is a distinct and spiritually discernable reliance on Christ. There is a presence of the Holy Spirit manifested by the fruits of the Spirit in the character of such. Of course, we are warned throughout of false prophets and teachers. We are aware that Satan can make a counterfeit that is only detectable by true faith and the presence of the Lord.

Paul adds a further word of encouragement to this in the next three verses: *But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. (2 Thessalonians 3:3-5).* May we be found praying that the “Word of the Lord would have free course and be glorified.” *bhs*

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“The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad.”  
Psalm 97:1

Yes, rejoice that Jehovah Jesus universally rules and reigns! Those in Christ may draw comfort from their triumphant sovereign’s reign. Our King micromanages the world in which we live to ensure His will and promises. This King is the fairest of ten thousand to our soul. This is the King of Glory and this King reigns as sovereign over His kingdom which has no end. Truly where men are subject to the King there is a

spiritually joyous people. This King's kingdom shall stretch from shore to shore. The knowledge of this LORD's glory shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. He reigns by right of creation, providence, and redemption. Paul asserted, "There is no power or authority but of God."

Our King reigns by right of creation. "In the beginning God created." The One who created has the right of the rule of that creation. He has made this world and those who dwell therein for His purpose and glory. "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:3-4). The King is ruler over all His creation in unrestricted, absolute power and jurisdiction. He exercises His power as He pleases and does not give account to anyone, and no one has the right to require an accounting of Him. The Lord is not "able to perform unless he possesses unlimited dominion over all beings, states and conditions. Hence emerges the notion of an infinite and all-powerful Ruler, with a will morally determined, as well as with intelligence and mere benevolence of character" [James H. Thornwell]. He rules that which he creates and sustains (Ps. 95; 24; 115). Nebuchadnezzar found out the hard way who was in authority; the Authority does His will in heaven and among earthly inhabitants and none can stop Him or question Him (Dan. 4:35 cp. Job 9:12).

Our King reigns by right of providence. Thus, our Ruler controls all events in all of life in accord with His own perfect will for His glory and our good—this is providence. Therefore, He sees all in advance because He decreed it and causes it all to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. The providence of God upholds and governs every created thing. Everything in His universe is operating for His will in the flow of time. This includes providing the raven his food and satisfying the desire of every living thing. He monitors even the fall of a sparrow as important to Him and His children are of more value to Him than a multitude of sparrows. Everything that occurs, as well as every being, is under His perfect control. Chance does not exist in His universe. Since nothing was too minute for God to create, even so nothing is too minute for him to preserve or control. The divine attributes are displayed in His providence. Telescopes reveal the immense magnitude and countless hosts of worlds which He created and sustains; microscopes show that His providence concerns itself with the minutest microbe.

God is a King of power unknown;  
Firm are the orders of His throne;  
If He resolves, who dare oppose,  
Or ask Him why, or what He does?

Our King reigns by right of redemption. He who gave His life a ransom for many has the right of rule over those whom He has redeemed by His precious blood. His Word says you are not your own for you have been bought with a price therefore you should glorify Him for you are His by redemption (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

We are to rejoice because the Lord reigns. Our joy is bound up in the King of Glory and His rule for without Him we are nothing. Have you submitted to the Saviour King? Spurgeon asserted, "Ask the King to give you grace to recognize His right to give or to withhold the blessing, and then plead with Him, for Jesus' sake, to remember you for good." —Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg