

Jesus does not love like us. We love until we are betrayed. Jesus continued to the cross despite betrayal. We love until we are forsaken. Jesus loved through forsakenness. We love up to a limit. Jesus loves to the end. —Dane Ortlund

### GADSBY'S CATECHISM

By William Gadsby, about 1800

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

Question XCV. Ought all men to pray?

Answer. All men ought to pray for the things which they feel they need, and which God, in His Word, has promised to give; and it is their sin if they do not.

Isa. 55.6-7; Ezek. 36.37; Luke 18.1; Rom. 12.12; 1 Thess. 5.17; 1 Tim. 2.8.

Question XCVI. What shall be done to the wicked at their death?

Answer. The souls of the wicked shall, at their death, be cast into the torments of hell and their bodies shall be in their graves till the resurrection, and the judgment of the great day.

Psa. 9.17; Matt. 3.12 & 24.51; Luke 16.23-26; 2 Cor. 5.10; Heb. 6.2 & 9.27; Jude 7.

#### THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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 REPORT

## THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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### THE DELIVERANCE OF THE GODLY

*The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: (2 Peter 2:9)*

In assessing our world today, it would be very easy to conclude that conditions are as they were in the days of Noah. Surely, the same has been said by the Lord's people in other times when moral decline intensified and open rebellion against God was the order of the day. We who look for His appearing tend to be observant of such things as indicate the kind of departures predicted by Paul and others, including our Lord. The distinction of the Lord's people is seen in that they do not waver from their assurance that God has never relinquished control of His creation and especially that He has not abandoned His determination to redeem a people for His name. In Paul's message to the Athenians he declared that the assurance that the Lord would carry out the work of redemption and carry on to final judgment was confirmed by the resurrection of Christ our Lord. If indeed, the appearing of our Lord is near, we rejoice. The coming of the Lord will not be a surprise to the redeemed – they love His appearing and are looking for it.

The intent of Peter in this passage is to reassure suffering people that the things they were enduring would not be without divine intervention. The temptations mentioned here were not the things we normally associate with the word. Kenneth Wuest, quoting another commentator, wrote, “The idea here is primarily of those surroundings that try a man's fidelity and integrity, and not of the inward; inducement to sin, arising from the desires.”

Certainly, those things are a constant challenge to the faith of believers but here it is the testing that is given to prove the faith of God's elect. The word as used here is the same as that dealing with the temptation of Christ. There the intent of Satan was to entice our Lord to react to a most trying situation by departing from the Word of God. The same terminology was applied by our Lord in the disciple's prayer to be led away from temptation. Again, Jesus made reference to the same for Himself: *Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. (Luke 22:28)*. This He did in calling the Apostles to remember the things that challenged Him all along the way.

In the preceding verses in this chapter Peter cited two examples from the Old Testament to establish his declaration of assurance. They were Noah and Lot. The testing of each of these men is evident although differing in their situations. The story of Noah and the Flood is well-known. What we might overlook is the trial of Noah in the extended period before the flood. Noah was, of course, in the Godly line of Seth and Enoch. We may safely assume that it was in the pursuit of the things of the Lord that Noah found (not earned) grace. Wicked men and the wickedness of men was ever before him and was a source of trial and testing to him. We know that sinfulness does not like to exist alone; it seeks to draw all to itself. I have lived long enough to witness an open decline in both morality and integrity in our land and around

the world. Noah, no doubt, witnessed the same. The Lord knew how to deliver Noah and did, along with creation itself. He brought judgment on the world.

If we only had the Old Testament account of Lot and his sojourn in Sodom, we might believe him to be a lost person. Given the choice by Abraham, he chose to dwell in an area of terrible ungodliness. In reading of the account of Lot's deliverance from Sodom we discover several things that indicate spiritual deficiency. His attempts to remedy the actions of the wicked men of Sodom were not born of faith. It was evident that, except for his daughters, he had lost influence with his family. Noah endured the trials of his age while submitting in faithful obedience to the Lord's warnings and proceeded with the building of the Ark. Lot was forcibly removed from Sodom. And it did not fare well for his wife.

Yet, Peter tells us that Lot was vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked and calls him "just Lot." Where the presence of the Lord is there can be no toleration of sin. It will be troubling to all who possess the righteousness of Christ and especially as it is discovered in ourselves. The question for us is, does the sinfulness of our land, our leaders, and those about us, vex our souls? The next question is do we have any impact on the situation?

Peter's point here is well taken. It was the Lord that delivered both Noah and Lot out of the trials they were experiencing. Noah was able to "count it all joy," while the witness to Lot was the vexation of soul.

There are many warnings for us throughout the Word. *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (1 Timothy 6:9).* But thanks, be unto God there are many assurances such as Peter gives us here. Peter shows us two quite different cases. Perhaps that is so we might claim this promise regarding personal trials. The essential deliverance is unto salvation which includes deliverance "from this present evil world." That would necessarily include deliverance out of testings, provings, allurements to evil, self-trust, and prideful self-serving behaviors.

How precious it is to read, *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. (Psalms 34:19).* What a delightful prospect temptations provide for us: *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. (James 1:12).* What a precious comfort do we find in the words of Paul: *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13).*

We would be reminded that, *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12).* But we would be further reminded of the assurance in this text and of the Lord's determination to separate "the precious from the vile." *bhs*

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## HOLD FAST TO INSPIRED SCRIPTURE

The world does not love Christ or Christians any better than of old; and all who are minded to live godly lives will come inevitably to the cross in one form or another. To be without persecution should put us in serious doubt as to whether we are right. The spirit of the gospel is in absolute disagreement with the spirit of the world. But, whatever the losses and trials, let the children of God abide in the things which they

have learned, and walk in blameless purity and consistency. The conduct, purpose, and patience of this great and holy Apostle gleam in front of us for our inspiration and guidance; and his experience will be ours—that there is no sorrow out of which we shall not be delivered, when we have learned the lesson it was sent to teach.

In the stern experiences of human life there is no stay that is comparable to the Holy Scriptures. The infinite variety of Scripture adapts itself to different states of the soul. Whatever our need, we can find its solace and remedy here. Thus we may live a complete life, finding in the Bible an equipment for all our emergencies. In this armory is every weapon for offense and defense; in this pharmacopoeia is a medicine and antidote for every wound. --F. B. Meyer

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Friends, are you spending an inordinate time watching the news, spending more time watching current events than you are in God's word? Are you getting so caught up in the crazy narrative of the present time that you are forgetting why we're here?. Are you forgetting God's purpose for this world?

We are just a small blip in history. Kingdoms come, and Kingdoms go, but only God's Kingdom is eternal. While we ought to be aware of our surroundings, if all your efforts are spent being anxious about politics and current events, you are putting your trust in something transient, something certain to fail. Seek first the Kingdom and his righteousness ... proclaim the good news of Christ's victory over sin and the certainty of his return to judge the world. The Lord reigns. Do good and seek the welfare of your neighbor. But no matter how good a person's politics or morality may be, without Christ they will perish. No law or regime change can stop human sinfulness. Only Jesus can disarm the hostility of human hearts. So bring your friends to drink of the water of life. Monergism — John Hendryx

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If any of those who were awakened by my ministry, did after that fall back (as sometimes too many did), I can truly say, their loss hath been more to me, than if one of my own children, begotten of my own body, had been going to its grave: I think verily, I may speak it without any offence to the Lord, nothing has gone so near me as that; unless it was the fear of the loss of the salvation of my own soul. I have counted as if I had goodly buildings and lordships in those places where my children were born; my heart hath been so wrapped up in the glory of this excellent work, that I counted myself more blessed and honoured of God by this, than if He had made me the emperor of the Christian world, or the lord of all the glory of the earth without it! Oh these words! He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death. James v. 20. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Prov. xi. 30. They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever. Dan. xii. 3. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy. 1 Thes. ii. 19, 20. These, I say, with many others of a like nature, have been great refreshments to me.

--John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*