

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

It would be well if all who call themselves Christians, should learn that it is not their business to believe and teach what they may think true or right, but what God in his Holy Word has seen fit to reveal. —Charles Hodge

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH

By J. Newton Brown -- 1833

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

XV. Of the Christian Sabbath

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath; and it is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Col. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; I Cor. 16:1-2; Ex. 20:8; Rev. 1:10; Ps. 118:15, 24; Isa. 58:13-14; Isa. 56:2-8; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; Acts 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2-3; Ps. 26:8; Ps. 87:3; Heb. 4:3-11

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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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ABOUNDING LOVE

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.
(Philippians 1:9-11)

Twice in the Gospel of John our Lord spoke of living waters. He did so first to the woman at the well in Samaria. The second time was on the last day of a feast in Jerusalem. In reference to the fullness of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, He cried “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.” In both cases there would have been limited understanding, but we have been given to understand more fully the operations of the Spirit within. From this we may surely understand that the life of a believer and all that pertains to it reflects the life of Christ in us through the fruit of the Spirit. It does not function as does the natural life of fallen man which is centered on the things of the world and has the limitations of sin and death; it is rather ever increasing and aspiring to greater understanding and the experience of the fellowship with God, in Christ, and through the operations of the Spirit. Paul had indicated such hope to the Philippians in v. 6 in his confidence that the Lord having begun a good work in them would “perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.”

It would have been easy for Paul to think of the outcome on terms of the sovereign will and purpose of God, and it would be so. Instead, he would have them to know that his prayer was for them to realize both the assured outcome and the way it would come about. Many look to a future outcome apart from a present

experience of life in Christ. There can be no true assurance apart from a vital knowing of Christ. His concern was real, as it is with all true under-shepherds of the Lord’s people. He would have them to experience the abounding of love for God in Christ, and to one another. He would have them to increase in the knowledge of doctrinal and practical truth, and he would have them to exercise good judgment or spiritual insight in dealing with all things.

The terms Paul used here speak of super-abounding and of ever-increasing growth in grace. Love is a fruit of the Spirit and as such is spiritually received, understood, and demonstrated inwardly and outwardly. Gill observed that it is a principle of the heart, expressed by the mouth, and is manifested in actions to its outward objects in deed and in truth. There can never be too much love in the context of salvation and in the economy of grace. How often do we pray as did the songwriter, “O for grace to love Thee more.” True love and true loving begins with love to the Father and to the Son and proceeds from there seeking to love where the image and superscription of Christ is found. God cannot be loved too much, and neither can the saints as the saints of God, though they be men (Gill). We would have love to be narrowly focused on its objects and we with blinders on that our

attention be not drawn away by the things of this present evil world.

Paul would have them and us gain that which would serve to increase our love. Love abounds as it attains to knowledge of things pertaining to Christ and the way of salvation. Love produces a desire for further knowledge of its objects and that knowledge obtained then gives greater incentive to love. Thus, the two grow together. The more that we grow in the knowledge of Christ the more we love Him and the more we love Him the more we would know. Hendriksen observed that “fully developed love never travels alone. It is accompanied by all the other virtues. Knowledge alone is worthless (1 Corinthians 13:2). Paul wrote to the Corinthians also: *Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. (1 Corinthians 8:1)*. In other words, “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up” (Hendriksen).

The result of such abounding is discernment in spiritual things. The result is to be better informed and anchored in truth that proper judgments (not judging others) may be exercised. Otherwise we are left to the wisdom of this world which is no wisdom at all. The natural man in trying to deal with scriptural issues often resorts to a curious admixture which includes biblical wisdom with that of the world. Such is adversarial to the things of God and is to be rejected and will be where love abounds in the knowledge of God.

Paul would also desire the approval of excellent things. Some would have this to read

“things that are different.” If indeed that included such things as distinguishing between morality and grace, earthly and heavenly, carnal versus spiritual, and temporal versus eternal, it might be well taken that way. Hendriksen rather saw this as “the man who not only has the ability to distinguish, but also actually chooses things that really matter in preference to those that are bad or of little importance, does this with a view to being ‘pure and blameless.’” These things were with the expectation of the coming day of Christ. Paul often expressed his own desire that those to whom he ministered be presented as faultless before the throne. Those who will be are those who are abounding in love and knowledge and who are choosing those things that are excellent. These are such things as the Knowledge of Christ, His righteousness, His blood, and His satisfaction. And the truths of the Gospel including peace, pardon, justification, adoption, sanctification, and eternal life. Where love abounds, these things are fully embraced.

Should we not pray, as did Paul, for such things to appear in us and in those to whom we minister. We would do well to study the prayers of Paul for those things to appear in us that are approved of God. If these prayers are recorded under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we would be well advised to imitate them. So, we should be desiring that the fruits of righteousness, by Jesus Christ, be seen in us. The glory of God will always be the aim and the delight of those who love God and are the called according to His purpose. *bhs*

Who Gets to Rule Our Hearts This Week?.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... Col. 3:15

Lord Jesus, this week, like every week, our hearts will be ruled. There will be a resident monarch, ruling impetus, or controlling preoccupation. It might be overbearing people, or under-believing the Gospel; our “need” to get more attention, or greed to have more cash. It could be COVID-fears, crazy-politics, or a crummy attitude.

But by faith, in obedience to one third of one verse in your Word, we choose your peace as the ruler of our hearts this week—our “heart-boss,” inner-chief, affection-director. No one knows peace better than you, Jesus, for you are the Prince of Peace. You don’t just give us peace; you are our peace (Eph. 2:14).

By your finished work, you secured God’s peace with us, and our peace with God. Peace with God is now our legal right—a done deal and settled issue. Peace from God is our daily calling, free gift, and constant need.

By the power of the Spirit, may your peace tame our fears and calm anxieties; help us accept things we cannot change, and outcomes that remain uncertain.

Jesus, because you are at peace with us, we will seek to live at peace with others. Because you have forgiven us, we choose to forgive others. Grant us the grace we need. So very Amen we pray, in your holy and persistent name.

—Scotty Smith (cited by Tim Challies)

BEWARE OF THE SERPENT!

I reside in what is called Saint Croix’s “snake central”. This section of this island has the most snakes. They are dangerous boas. I therefore always look for them when I walk about the property.

I once thought I had stumbled onto a snake while shining my flashlight into a tree one night. But the “snake” I felt under my foot was a garden hose instead. Any snake watching me from the darkness probably had quite a laugh at my fright.

One day I walked across the back gallery and into the yard, then returned. There it was! On a flat space about waist high, its head about one foot away from me. I had walked by it once and was about to walk by it again. I was not expecting to see a snake on the gallery of the house.

I quickly grabbed a nearby machete and dispatched the boa.

I would make some spiritual applications from this to God’s children.

Realize that this whole earth is “snake central”. It is inhabited everywhere by “that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan” (as he is called in Revelation 12:9 & 20:2). I do not imply that he is omnipresent. But he certainly gets around a lot and has been spotted in every place.

Saints are therefore exhorted to “Be sober, be vigilant” because they never know when this serpent will appear (1 Peter 5:8). He is looking for victims. Let us therefore not let him catch us unawares. Always be on the watch for him. And give no place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27).

Always carry God’s Word as your light when walking in this land of spiritual darkness. It will serve to illuminate your path before you and where to put your feet (Psalm 109:105). Many who walk in the darkness without this light are certain that they have stumbled across the serpent Satan, when in fact it was something quite harmless. Satan undoubtedly laughs at their fright.

Do not consider your home to be off-limits to Satan. For this serpent has slithered unseen into many a home. He entered the house of an apostle of Jesus (Luke 22:3) and of members of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 5:3).

If you are a child of God, do not flee when you cross paths with the serpent Satan. He is more afraid of you than you should be of him. For Satan knows and fears your Master. Obey the Holy Spirit when He says “Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ... Resist him, steadfast in the faith” (James 4:7 & 1 Peter 5:8f). And remember the words of William Cowper when he hymned:

Satan tremble when he sees

The weakest saint upon his knees.

And rejoice in the knowledge that “the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly” (Romans 16:20).

– Daniel E. Parks