

William Plumer: "Without meditation grace never thrives, prayer is languid, praise is dull, and religious duties are unprofitable. It is easier to hear a year of sermons-- than to spend an hour in close, devout, profitable thoughts on divine things."

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

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

80.Q. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ; wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to his appointment, his death is shown forth (1 Cor. 11:23-26), and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporeal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace (1 Cor. 10:16).

81.Q. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A. It is required of them who would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body (1 Cor. 11:28-29), of their faith to feed upon him (2 Cor. 13:5), of their repentance (1 Cor. 11:31), love (1 Cor. 11:18-20), and new obedience, (1 Cor. 5:8) lest coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

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Services:

Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

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 LAST WORD

*Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (Hebrews 1:2-3).*

In attempting to preach from this passage in the past I have often ended with a feeling of frustration. The depth of that which is expressed here concerning the Majesty of God and of God the Son left me feeling that I had failed miserably at trying to adequately declare that which is written here. I have had the sense that there was infinitely more that could be said than these poor lips of clay could utter. Perhaps we shall always be left with such feelings at attempting to properly assess the Glory of God let alone trying to describe it. We have the record of some in Scripture that has been left speechless at mere glimpses of His Glory. But it is here and demands that we meditate thereon and so be suitably affected by what we read.

It is quite interesting to hear men speak of the last days when we realize that they think these days have just begun. The fact is that the Last days here spoken of begin as we read it in this text. The last days began when His Son came into the world, and it has been the last days since. In the first verse of this passage, we read that God had at various times and in different manners spoken in times past unto the fathers by the prophets. These times are well documented in those things that have accompanied the revelation of the glorious God of Christ. Peter reminds us that this time was anticipated by the prophets. He wrote: *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and*

*searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (1 Peter 1:10-11).* The appearance of Christ pointed his thoughts to such passages as, *In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 33:15).* He was surely familiar with others such as, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2).*

That He has spoken to us by His Son is confirmed in a glorious manner. From the Psalmist we are told that all things will be subjected to Him. *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalms 2:8-9).* It is now that we understand that we are to “hear ye Him!” It is He in whom the Father is “well pleased.” And it is He from whom we would learn all things. He has spoken to us verbally in the precious words of the Gospel. He

has spoken to us by example. He has manifested the righteousness of God in both precept and manner. He would leave the Apostles with this claim to be the anointed speaker, the teacher, the Word made flesh. Consider: *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Matthew 28:18)*. The authority was His. From that He commissioned them with the Gospel to be taken into the world, and He promised to accompany them in it all.

In the descriptions we read we often encounter questions which are answered but not fully comprehended. Who is this by Whom God speaks? The writer tells us first that He is the brightness of the Glory of God. Paul was blinded by that glory. The disciples on the Mount saw something they could not explain in human terms. And John declares preciously, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*.

The writer further declares that He is the express image of the Father, an identical likeness. We are reminded that one of the Apostles ask Him to reveal the Father. Jesus' reply was lost on Philip at that time. *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? (John 14:9)*. Paul tells us that it is He *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: (Colossians 1:15)*. The fulness of the Godhead

dwells in Him bodily (Colossians 2).

What is He doing or what has He done? He is upholding all things by the word of His power. His was not only the authority, His was also the ability to carry out all things. Paul reminds us that it is by Him that all things consist, or literally, are held together and made to function as determined by the will of God. The disciples marveled at His power over the storm. Do we?

Having by Himself purged our sins, having accomplished the will of the Father, He has assumed His rightful place. What a wonder that this was the consummate act, to redeem His people from their sins. We both marvel and rejoice at the thought that it was He, God manifest in the flesh, *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Titus 2:14)*. And so, the message comes *...from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, (Revelation 1:5)*.

We are given glimpses of where He is. Of course, we know that He is with us in this life which we live through Him. But He is bodily "at the right hand of the Majesty on High." The angels are not there (v. 13), but we sweetly remember that we are *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)*. His is the Last Word. *bhs*

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**WAIT ON THE LORD'...IS A NECESSARY WORD, FOR GOD OFTEN KEEPS US WAITING. HE IS NOT IN SUCH A HURRY AS WE ARE, AND IT IS NOT HIS WAY TO GIVE MORE LIGHT ON THE FUTURE THAN WE NEED FOR ACTION IN THE PRESENT, OR TO GUIDE US MORE THAN ONE STEP AT A TIME. —J.I. PACKER**

## ON MEDITATION

George Muller: "It often astonishes me that I did not see the importance of meditation upon Scripture earlier in my Christian life. We must consider what we read, ponder over it, and apply it to our hearts. The most important thing I do, is to read the Word of God and to meditate on it. Thus my heart might is comforted, encouraged, warned, reprov'd and instructed."

Thomas Watson: "The reason we come away so cold from reading the Word, is because we do not warm ourselves at the fire of meditation. Without meditation, the truths which we know will never affect our hearts. As a hammer drives a nail to the head, so meditation drives a truth to the heart. Read before you meditate. Reading furnishes with matter--it is the oil which feeds the lamp of meditation. Be sure your meditations are founded upon Scripture. Reading without meditation is barren and unfruitful; meditation without reading is dangerous."

Charles Spurgeon: "Some people like to read so many chapters every day. I would not dissuade them from the practice, but I would rather let my soul soak in half a dozen verses all day, than rinse my hand in several chapters. Oh, to be bathed in a text of Scripture, and to let it be sucked up into your very soul, till it saturates your heart! Set your heart upon God's Word! Let your whole nature be plunged into it as a cloth into a dye!"

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Do you know God?

Knowing God is a true and useful category for understanding your Christian experience. It is one the Bible itself uses, repeatedly; the purpose of life, after all, is "that we may know him who is true" (1 John 5:20). But our own human capacities do not exhaust what it means to be a child of God. "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it" (Ps. 139:6). The broader, deeper, wraparound category of life as the people of God is that we are known by him. Not only now, in our present, but way back when we were being formed in the womb, God knew us (v. 15). And he knows our future as well—every day of it (v. 16). Do you feel alone? Unknown? Forgotten? Neglected? Sidelined? Marginalized? Remember who you are. If you are in Christ, the deepest reality of your existence is that God knows you. He knows every nook and cranny of your heart. He knows every failure, every fear. He understands you. He does not merely know about you. He knows you. He has pressed you into the inner recesses of his heart. Forgiven and adopted into his family by grace, you are loved by the Lord Jesus Christ with the very love with which the Father loves him (John 15:9). From, *In the Lord I Take Refuge: 150 Daily Devotions through the Psalms*

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