

I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world; yet, when Christ calls me home, I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school. —Adoniram Judson

God will not protect you from anything that will make you more like Jesus. —Elisabeth Elliot

The stronger the foundation of a house, the bigger and stronger the building itself can be. And the richer and fuller the exposition of God's grace, the more consuming the exhortations can be. —Sinclair Ferguson

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

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

49.Q. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

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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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A SONG OF SALVATION

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

(Isaiah 26:1-3)

The Lord has wonderfully gifted His people with the ability to sing and has given them wonderful things about which they sing. Paul wrote of this gift to the Ephesians. *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Ephesians 5:19)*. The Israelites sang of victory at the crossing of the Red Sea. Deborah and Barak sang at the victory they were given over the enemies of the Lord. We read of the singing at the restoration of the Temple worship in the reign of Hezekiah: *Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped. (2 Chronicles 29:30)*. In our Lord's rebuke to Job, He asked where Job was “When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” From such precedents and examples, we are reminded that singing from the heart is an integral part of true worship. And so, the prophet here declares that this gift will ever be enjoyed by those who rejoice in the Truth.

While there is certainly a look to the future here in which salvation will be more perfectly revealed, there is a present reality in salvation of which we have much to sing. Who can forget the plight of Paul and Silas and the conditions under

which they sang praises unto God. For all that they had endured, the wall of salvation in them had not been breached and they were in possession of the peace that passes understanding. The implication, if not assertion, here is that defense and security are at issue. The confidence here is clearly in the Lord and that we should claim and enjoy the things of the Lord wherein we are secured. We sing as a matter of the exercise of faith and confidence in Him. The Gospel of our Lord's grace takes on exciting dimensions both now and, in the ages to come. Is it any wonder that the writer referred to it as “so great salvation.”

This whole scenario is depicted in song and a beautiful one indeed. The “strong city” speaks to us of cohabitation with God in Christ, His design and purpose. Its design is to function as an economy. That is, active function in the Kingdom. A secular consideration of an economy is defined as the wealth and resources of a country or region, especially in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services. I have often read and heard of the “Mosaic economy” in referring to the Old Testament Theocracy. But ours is an economy of grace. As such, complete provision is understood, and it is in no way dependent on outside sources. And it is secured against all enemies. We are reminded of, *Wherefore we*

receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (Hebrews 12:28). It is salvation that secures the city. The walls and bulwarks are impenetrable. The Psalmist encouraged us to "Walk about Zion," and to mark well her bulwarks. Hear Our Lord: *Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? (Matthew 21:42)*. Truly, we are kept in, and the enemy is kept out. This is unlike the futile efforts of men – cisterns that can't hold water (Jeremiah 2:13), bulging walls (Isaiah 30:13), and bags with holes (Haggai 1:6).

We rejoice and sing of the fact that unto that righteous nation the gates are opened. These are they which keep the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. They are both admitted and secured. *Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. (Isaiah 60:21)*. Peter surely saw the character of those saved by the grace of God and identified them thusly: *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Peter 2:9)*. In his second epistle he further observed that, *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2 Peter 3:13)*. The command is to open to the righteous nation – Christ made righteousness to them. It is to open to those keeping the truths in that they are

sanctified by the Spirit of God. Again, we sing of His mercy and of His grace. We remember the prayer of our Lord: *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 17:17)*.

Peter preciously wrote of an inheritance reserved in heaven for us (1 Peter 1:4) and of the fact that we are "...kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:5)." The Psalmist sang of the One who keeps us in perfect peace. *But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. (Psalms 3:3)*. We are not only kept, but the manner of our keeping is also in perfect peace. It is interesting to note that "perfect peace" is in the Hebrew "peace peace." It is uncertain as to whether it is doubled for emphasis or perhaps speaks of the peace of God and peace with God – reconciliation having been accomplished and rest communicated to the soul regarding all things. Enemies are all conquered assuring victory in all things. All affairs in order – the sacrifice has been accepted and all requirements have been satisfied in Christ. Truth prevails and permeates the very soul with the freedom to know God. There is truly freedom to move about the Kingdom or to explore the grace of God as faith ventures forth in Him. These are those whose mind is "stayed" – having taken hold on the love of God and holding fast.

Why are they kept? God honors the faith He has given them. They trust in Him and He will not fail such as are found clinging to Him. There have been many kingdoms that many thought could never fail (including America). Ours is a Kingdom which cannot be moved and so we sing of salvation. *bhs*

"The Holy Spirit never creates hungerings and thirstings after righteousness, but in order that Christ may fill the longing soul." "Faith in Jesus crucified is the way of peace to the sinner; so faith in Jesus risen is the way of daily salvation to the saint." "You can not be your own Saviour, either in whole or in part."

--Hudson Taylor

One of the greatest crimes committed by this present Christian generation is its neglect of the gospel, and it is from this neglect that all our other maladies spring forth. The lost world is not so much gospel hardened as it is gospel ignorant because many of those who proclaim the gospel are also ignorant of its most basic truths. The essential themes that make up the very core of the gospel—the justice of God, the radical depravity of man, the blood atonement, the nature of true conversion, and the biblical basis of assurance—are absent from too many pulpits. Churches reduce the gospel message to a few creedal statements, teach that conversion is a mere human decision, and pronounce assurance of salvation over anyone who prays the sinner's prayer. The result of this gospel reductionism has been far-reaching. First, it further hardens the hearts of the unconverted. Few modern-day "converts" ever make their way into the fellowship of the church, and those who do often fall away or have lives marked by habitual carnality. Untold millions walk our streets and sit in our pews unchanged by the true gospel of Jesus Christ, and yet they are convinced of their salvation because one time in their life they raised a hand at an evangelistic campaign or repeated a prayer. This false sense of security creates a great barrier that often insulates such individuals from ever hearing the true gospel. – Paul Washer, *The Gospel's Power and Message*

Divine providence is the accomplishment in time, of God's sovereign and eternal decree. Providence is God bringing to pass in time (sovereignly, absolutely, and perfectly) all that He purposed in eternity.

Nothing in the universe happens by luck, chance, fortune, accident, or by blind fate. Everything that comes to pass in time, was purposed by our God in eternity, and is brought to pass by His wise, adorable, holy Providence.

Providence is God's government of His universe. If we have a proper view of God's Providence, we will see the hand of God and the heart of God in everything, in all the experiences of our lives. Believers ascribe their sorrows and afflictions to the hand of their heavenly Father's wise and good Providence.

God's Providence is always executed in the wisest manner possible. We are often unable to see and understand the reasons and causes for specific events in our lives, in the lives of others, or in the happenings of the world. But our lack of understanding does not prevent us from believing God. We bow to His will, which is evident in His works of Providence, and say, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"

The God of Providence rules all things well. How we ought to trust Him! Ever remember, our heavenly Father is God all wise, good, and omnipotent. He is too wise to err, too good to do wrong, and too strong to fail.

In His wisdom and power, God cares for, preserves and sustains and upholds, rules and directs, and governs all creatures, all actions, and all things--from the largest star in the galaxy to the smallest sparrow in a tree, for His own glory and the good of His redeemed people. --Don Fortner