

The deepest passion of the heart of Jesus was not the saving of men, but the glory of God; and then the saving of men, because that is for the glory of God.

—G. Campbell Morgan

The Baptist Catechism

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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

16. Q. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God (Gen. 3:6, 7, 8, 13; Eccles. 7:29).

17. Q. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God (1 John 3:4).

18. Q. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6, 12, 16, 17).

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THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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PRAISE YE THE LORD

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Psalms 150:6)

The mandate to praise the Lord is both written and implied throughout the Word of God. It is well that we should be attentive to both the manner and means of it. Above all else, we should endeavor to be fully engaged in it. Praise is a necessity to all who know the Lord and have by faith seen Him “High and lifted up.” Ultimately, praise will be expressed by all creation. This is certainly in keeping with that which is realized concerning praise: *Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. (Psalms 33:1)*. The mandate is clear: *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11)*. And hear it so forcefully spoken from out of the throne: *And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. (Revelation 19:5)*.

Like many other things, that the world has perverted, praise is often suppressed on the one hand and cheaply imitated on the other hand. The Pharisees tried, to no avail, to silence the praise of those welcoming Jesus at His entrance into Jerusalem. But then, do we bow to those who might be offended at the open expression of the praise of our Lord? We have also witnessed that imitation of praise wherein those participating are obviously calling attention to themselves rather than the One who is

deserving of all the honor and glory.

A definition of praise is the commendation bestowed on a person for his personal virtue or meritorious acts. The expression of one regenerated and converted will be praise first of all. Certainly there will be a sense of what has been accomplished in his behalf and due praise will be rendered up to the One who has done it: *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. (Psalms 40:3)*.

He has given breath to all. *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)*. It is only fitting that God-given breath should be employed in praising the creator of all. Verse six of this Psalm is the summary thought of that which preceded in the first five verses and so we will look at them as well.

In the first verse we read: *Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. (Psalms 150:1)*. We note that praise is directed in two places. He is to be praised in the sanctuary. The reference here would be understood to be the Temple and all that is understood by the Lord amid them. But then we would consider: *But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)*. What comes to mind is that not only does the Lord reign supremely, but also, His reign is manifested to all in the context of redemption. And we remember

that God was in Christ, revealing, speaking, and reconciling. The second place is in the firmament of His power. We are reminded again of the words of the Psalmist: *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (Psalms 19:1)*. The whole expanse of His power including all of creation, the heavenly host, and the universe.

In verse 2, the reasons for praise are listed. His mighty acts including, but not limited to the following things. Creation, in which we have the whole universe as a continuous display of His glory that may be seen by all. The providential control and the government of this present world. But especially the redemption of fallen men. Praise is to be offered up in accordance with His excellent greatness as well. One described this as “the multitude of His magnificence.”

Verses 3-5 describe the means that might be used in praising the Lord. There was a trumpet call to worship. We do not need to know of these instruments, only that those using them were engaged in praising the Lord. And we are reminded that David danced before the Lord. What we do know is that the best music is made in the heart: *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Ephesians 5:19)*. There is the obvious danger that the means used in expressing praise may become ends in themselves. Millions have been drawn to those marketing their talents in the name of the Lord. The result is feeling entertained rather than being drawn out in the praise of our Blessed Lord.

Verse six then brings us to a comprehensive mandate to praise and we are reminded again of the scene at the throne, a crescendo of praise: *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever. (Revelation 5:8-14).*

How easily the words “praise the Lord” roll off our lips. Perhaps it is well that it is so. But we will be much better served as we hear the mandate from the Word of God and engage in the manner described. *bhs*

Into the Deep -- Launch out into the deep - Luke 5:4

How deep He does not say. The depth into which we launch will depend upon how perfectly we have given up the shore, and the greatness of our need, and the apprehension of our possibilities. The fish were to be found in the deep, not in the shallow water.

So with us; our needs are to be met in the deep things of God. We are to launch out into the deep of God's Word, which the Spirit can open up to us in such crystal fathomless meaning that the same words we have accepted in times past will have an ocean meaning in them, which renders their first meaning to us very shallow.

Into the deep of the Atonement, until Christ's precious blood is so illuminated by the Spirit that it becomes an omnipotent balm, and food and medicine for the soul and body.

Into the deep of the Father's will, until we apprehend it in its infinite minuteness and goodness, and its far-sweeping provision and care for us.

Into the deep of the Holy Spirit, until He becomes a bright, dazzling, sweet, fathomless summer sea, in which we bathe and bask and breathe, and lose ourselves and our sorrows in the calmness and peace of His everlasting presence.

Into the deep of the Holy Spirit, until He becomes a bright, marvelous answer to prayer, the most careful and tender guidance, the most thoughtful anticipation of our needs, the most accurate and supernatural shaping of our events.

Into the deep of God's purposes and coming kingdom, until the Lord's coming and His millennial reign are opened up to us; and beyond these the bright entrancing ages on ages unfold themselves, until the mental eye is dazed with light, and the heart flutters with inexpressible anticipations of its joy with Jesus and the glory to be revealed.

Into all these things, Jesus bids us launch. He made us and He made the deep, and to its fathomless depths He has fitted our longings and capabilities. —Soul Food

"Its streams the whole creation reach,
So plenteous is the store;
Enough for all, enough for each;
Enough forevermore."

The deep waters of the Holy Spirit are always accessible, because they are always proceeding. Will you not this day claim afresh to be immersed and drenched in these waters of life? The waters in Ezekiel's vision first of all oozed from under the doors of the temple. Then the man with the measuring line measured and found the waters to the ankles. Still further measurement, and they were waters to the knees. Once again they were measured and the waters were to the loins. Then they became waters to swim in—a river that could not be passed over. (Read Ezekiel 47). How far have we advanced into this river of life? The Holy Spirit would have a complete self effacement. Not merely ankle-deep, knee-deep, loin-deep, but self-deep. We ourselves hidden out of sight and bathed in this life-giving stream. Let go the shore-lines and launch out into the deep. Never forget, the Man with the measuring line is with us. JGM (Supplied by Kelly Tyler).

...what we do with Jesus' words is a great sign-post of our true identity and our eternal destiny. —Alistair Begg