

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Truth and family

By :

Jesus knew the truth He was revealing would divide family members. He said, *“For I came to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law: and a man’s foes shall be they of his own household” (Matthew 10:35-36).* The truth of the gospel of Christ is not from man, so it would contradict man’s thoughts (John 1:17, I Corinthians 2:9-13).

The truth revealed through Christ would therefore test the heart of the follower of Jesus. Would he follow the truth putting Christ first, or would he allow close family relationships to come between him and the knowledge of the truth? Jesus said, *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:37).*

Jesus knew that the division between family members would be a burden to bear for his sincere followers. But Jesus added, *“and he that doth not take his cross and follow after me, is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:38).* Becoming a Christian and

living the life as a disciple of Jesus demands putting the Lord and His truth first in our lives.

When presented the truth of the Gospel on what to do to be saved, some refuse to take the steps commanded by the Lord. They balk because they feel they would be contradicting what family members have believed and practiced for generations. For example, they learn one must repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins in order to be saved (Acts 2:38). They learn there is only one church of which Jesus is Head, and Saviour (Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:4, 5:23). The fond memories of loving parents begin to tug at their hearts when one realizes their family members did not obey these conditions, and were not members of the church revealed in the truth of the New Testament. Some will turn away from the clear truth of the gospel and say, “Well, if it was good enough for my parents, it is good enough for me”.

One has allowed natural family devotion to come between him and the Lord. Some even think that if they obeyed the truth, they would be condemning their

parents, who did not take those clear steps, to Hell, God’s word will be the standard by which God judges us, not our “wishes” or “think-so’s” (John 12:48).

Jesus revealed the destiny of a rich man following death in Luke 16:19-31. Opposite from the joys of Lazarus who had also died, this man was “in torments”, “anguish”, and had no way of escape. His thoughts were with his brethren who were still alive, and still had opportunity to avoid such torment. Jesus’ words teaches us that a dead loved ones, who are lost because they never obeyed the truth, earnestly wants you to hear the truth of the gospel and not experience the torment they are suffering.

When you are suffering “anguish” and “in torments” because you did not obey the truth, will your children be rejecting the same gospel message thinking, “if I believe that, I will be sending my parents to Hell.”? Put you and your family on the right track, by obeying the Gospel today. Start being an influence for truth by putting truth before everything, even before your beloved family members. Jesus demands it!