

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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Were you a hearer or a doer this year?

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As we come to the last two days of this year, let us take time to reflect upon our relationship with God. Did you avail yourself to the study of God’s Word, allowing His mind to instruct yours? Did you put forth the effort to understand what you studied? Did you then apply your understanding to your life by being a doer of what you have learned?

These are basic questions that we must answer in order to have the proper relationship with our Lord. For example, We are in no position as man to instruct God in anything. *“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor...” (Romans 11:33-34).* He reveals His mind to us through His Word, communicated through the spoken and written word of the Lord’s apostles. *“But we received, not the spirit of the word but the spirit which is from God; that we might know the things that were freely given to us of God” (1 Corinthians 2:12).* Our relationship with God must begin recognizing his authority to direct us,

and reverencing the direction communicated through the Bible.

We must also “understand” it. If not, God’s heard message will not remain in our heart. Jesus says, *“When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the evil one and snatcheth away that which hath been sown in his heart” (Matthew 13:19).* We are able of understanding God’s Word (*Ephesians 5:17*). Therefore, the responsibility lies with us. Jesus equates our hearts with hardened wayside ground when the seed of God’s word is not allowed to sink into our understanding. Understand the Word, or the Devil flies away with it leaving behind a hardened heart.

We must also put into practice what he hear and understand. Jesus contrasts two types of hearers of His word: the wise and the foolish. The wise *“...heareth these words of mine, and doeth them shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock...” (Matthew 7:24).* However, the foolish...*“heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man who built his house upon the sand” (Matthew 7:26).* Note both

hear, but the difference between wisdom and foolishness lies in one being a “doer” The doer of the word, not a mere hearer, has the promise of being blessed by our Lord (James 1:25).

Now, examine what you did this year with God’s Word. Did you spend time in reading it, understanding it, and doing it? If so, you have had a profitable year in the Word. IF NOT, then think seriously regarding your actions.

Daily Bible reading then did not strengthen your heart spiritually. You heard, but if not coupled with understanding, you allowed the Devil easy pickings for taking away God’s word from your heart. You have become spiritually inept of fighting the Devil even though you read God’s word each day. You have become a foolish builder of your life. You are building your life upon the ever shifting sand that will not support you when life’s calamities and God’s final judgment comes upon you. Why go on with such a building, if you have been so foolish with it’s foundation. Become a wise builder. Hear, understand and then do God’s Word in 2002!