

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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“ALWAYS”

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Dou always do this. Such a statement usually borders on a hyperbole, for one usually does not literally “always” do this or that. A wife may say to her inattentive husband that he “always” ignores her when she is talking. This may not be literally true, for when she is talking about supper, he is probably all ears. But her point is well taken for his inattentiveness seems to be something that occurs continually or perpetually.

The Greek words translated “always” in the New Testament convey this same perpetual concept. Vine’s summary of “always” is: “the idea being that of a continuous practice carried on without being abandoned”. Please take serious note of what God expects to be in our lives “always”.

God’s people must “always” *obey*. Paul exhorts the brethren in Philippi to continue their past practice. “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have *always obeyed*, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). This is simply following the ex-

ample of Jesus before His Father. Jesus said “... For I do *always* those things that please Him” (John 8:29). Do you always obey the teachings of God, regardless of who is watching?

Christians should *pray* to God “always”. We are to be “giving thanks *always* for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20). Prayer keeps us constantly alert for our own well-being, as well as that of our brethren. Paul exhorts us to be “praying *always* with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Ephesians 6:18). Do you pray always (I Thessalonians 5:17)?

Christians should be always growing in their spiritual work in the Lord. Paul sums up our victory over death through the resurrected Christ by exhorting, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, *always abounding* in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58). Has the reality of the end of time moved you to be

perpetually increasing in your work in the Lord?

The followers of Christ must be always ready to help the inquirer see foundational truths. Peter tells us to “... sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being *ready always* to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear...” (I Peter 3:15). Are you constantly refreshing you mind in the word of God so you can always be ready to give answer?

We are to always obey, pray, abound in the work of the Lord and be ready to give answer. As we determine to be perpetually involved in these areas without ever abandoning them, may we be encouraged with what God will “always” do. He will always supply what is needed, so we can always grow. “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, *always having all sufficiency* in all things, may abound to every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8). Let us remember these truths, and manifest them in our lives, always.