

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION

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What can I do to help the world? I don't have a new invention in mind to make life easier. A new medical breakthrough is not rising upon my mental horizons to make the world healthier. I don't have the political power or diplomatic *gravitas* to accomplish world peace. The World is too vast and too complicated for little o' me to make an impact upon the world.

Think again fellow sojourner. What the world always needs is reconciliation. Paul writes, “...that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The word, “reconciliation” means “to bring back or restore to agreement, concord or favor.” The need of reconciliation points to the world's problem in our relationship with God: sin. “For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Two parties who are always on terms of amity never need reconciliation. Through sin, each man has been separated from God (Isaiah 59:2).

Man, the guilty party, needs to be reconciled “to Him”, God, the innocent party. You don't have to look far before you see a world problem. Look to yourself, your family, your neighbors, and out into the world, for all need to be reconciled to their Creator.

At your finger tips is the “word of reconciliation”. It is the “good news” of God, offering men reconciliation with Him in Christ. “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself...”. The world cannot be reconciled to God by commencing to live upright lives. Cornelius was a devout, praying and generous man, yet he still had to hear words to be saved (Acts 10:2, 11:14).

One must contact the word of reconciliation which lays down God's terms of reconciliation. These God-given terms are for the world to hear, believe in Christ, confess Jesus as Lord, and be baptized into Christ (Rom. 10:17, Rom. 10:9-10, Gal. 3:26-27). Obeying these conditions brings one into Christ where God has revealed reconciliation takes place with Him.

Paul said he and the apos-

tlés were “ambassadors” on behalf of Christ. It was “as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

While the apostles are not living in the flesh on earth today, we need to feel the responsibility to take the same message of reconciliation which was committed to their trust and broadcast it to the world today, who has the need reconciliation. When he knew that he was departing from this life, Paul charged Timothy to preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2,6). Faithful men were to teach others what they learned from the inspired word of the apostles (2 Timothy 2:2). Paul, Timothy, other faithful men of Paul's day have passed on to their reward. You and I are here. Will we be faithful and offer the world the word of reconciliation?

We may never invent a commercial product, heal a deadly disease, or bring nations together in peace. But you and I can beseech the world to be reconciled to God as we offer them the word of reconciliation.