

# GLAD TIDINGS

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

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## PRAYING FOR THE GOSPEL

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**P**aul had a prayer request. He asked the Thessalonians to, “*pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified even as also it is with you*” ( 2 Thessalonians 3:1). The word of the Lord was Paul’s focus. While in this prayer request Paul asked to be “...*delivered from unreasonable and evil men who have not faith*” ( 2 Thessalonians 3:2), he asked it not out of a desire to live a long life on earth, but from his desire for Heaven’s message to spread widely.

It is interesting to note that Paul did not ask for prayer to make the Gospel more powerful. The message founded upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). It does not need to be mixed with prayer in order to release some magical ingredient that will inexplicably save souls. But the Gospel with its clear and understandable message cannot save if it is not communicated through preaching and teaching. Paul needed prayers to go up to God to help him be bold and speak as he ought to speak, (cf. Ephesians 6:19-20). Our focus in praying for the Gospel should be

the same as Paul’s: not that the word of the Lord be more powerful, but that it be more accessible. We need to pray for the Gospel today as Paul requested of Christians in the first century : that God’s word have free course to the hearts of men, and consequently be glorified due to its great and eternal message of salvation.

This week we are embarking on a concentrated effort to spread the Gospel in our area of the world to as many people as we can. Look at the announcements we are passing out. Notice the topics that will be presented. Our religious neighbors who are indoctrinated with the error of *Premillennialism* will have the opportunity to hear the truth that Jesus’ kingdom has already come (Colossians 1:13), and of their need to become members of his spiritual kingdom today by obeying the Gospel and being added to His church (Acts 2:47). The *indwelling of the Holy Spirit* is another subject where misunderstanding abounds. We pray that the word of the Lord will run and its truth pertaining to these important subjects be glorified.

We are also planning to

hear God’s word applied to matters upon which some would rather people remain silent. Some would advise that we not get into the controversy of *Creation VS. Evolution*, and if the days of creation were like our days, or were ages long. While public policy in our community forces us to think about *smoking*, some would rather not hear God’s principles that apply to this personal habit. But we pray the word of the Lord will run, and its truth regarding these controversial subjects be glorified.

This week we will have the opportunity to be reminded of truths that will help us be a strong local congregation of God’s people. What are *our responsibilities towards one another*? Why should we practice *church discipline*? How should it be carried out? We look forward to these lessons, and pray the word of the Lord will run and be glorified.

After we raise our heads in prayer for the Gospel, will we be present in order for the word of the Lord to be accessible to us?