

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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WHERE IS OUR FOCUS?

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The word focus means, “a center of interest or activity; to concentrate” (Webster’s Dictionary). For example, what is the cause for students’ grades to fall? Often, this is due to a lack of concentration. Instead of focusing on keeping their grades up, students allow other things to interfere and distract them from focusing on school. What is the outcome when this takes place? The students will fail their classes or grade level.

The same can be seen when speaking of Christians. When we allow things of this world to take our focus off spiritual things, we will fail at fulfilling our role of being a Christian. What will be the outcome? We will spend eternity in hell.

Our spiritual lives need to be focused on three things.. When we focus on these, brethren, we will reach our destiny of heaven that is set before us.

Jesus Christ should be the center of attention in our lives. When we allow things to draw us away from Christ, this world becomes our focus point. Paul emphasizes the importance of focusing our

lives on Christ. Paul says, “*let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*”... (Hebrews 12:1-2). Are we going to let sinful things burden us down and keep us from running and finishing the race? Brethren, we are to put off sin in our lives and focus on Christ. Jesus is represented as the one who takes precedence in our life and is the exemplar of our faith. Paul said, “*Imitate me as I imitate Christ.*”

A Christian is to deny ungodliness and live righteously. Apostle Paul says, “*we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age*”... (Titus 2:12). Every thought, word, and deed should be consistent with living soberly, righteously, and godly. Also, Peter says, “*For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Where will the ungodly and sinner appear?*”... (1 Peter 4:17-18). What will be the consequence for non-Christians who will not obey the gospel and Christians who live ungodly? Hell!

A Christian’s focus and aim in life is to reach the goal of enjoying the blessings of heaven. Paul says, “*But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 3:13-14). This should be true of every Christian. We should never let anything hinder us from keeping our eyes focused on the goal. Our aim is the prize of heaven, which can only be obtained by finishing the race. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:24, “*to run the race in such a way that we may obtain the imperishable crown.*” When we run the race lawfully, it will be with certainty. If not, we will be disqualified from enjoying the blessings of heaven.

Where is your focus? Is your life focused on living godly or ungodly? Is Christ the center of your life, or is it this world? Is heaven your goal? Or, will you focus on obtaining the less important things of life, while losing your most important possession—your soul?