

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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Endeavor To Persevere

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To “endeavor to persevere” is a line from a Clint Eastwood movie. I enjoyed the sound of it, the way it rolled off the tongue. In its setting, it sounded very profound. However, putting movies aside, we should pay attention to the setting where these words appear in the Bible.

First, Webster defines “endeavor” as: “to exert oneself or to make an effort.” The clear-cut meaning of persevere is: “to persist in a state, or undertaking in spite of counterinfluences, opposition, or discouragements.” Therefore, “to endeavor to persevere” is to strive to continue, regardless of the things that go on around us, whatever they may be.

We must contend with the life situations we find ourselves in, and as we contend with the tumultuous world we live in, we must endeavor to persevere. We have to deal with the present political situation with so much division and “in your face” opinions from every corner of the country. Ideas, spoken as truth, are often mere fabrications, and when spoken, many are afraid to refute them. Consequently, darkness pre-

vails, and Christians, who love truth, must endeavor to persevere.

In the Bible we find many examples of those brave souls who persevered. There are people that faced uphill battles with only their faith that God was on their side. They persevered during turbulent moments. As these events occurred, their faith in the Lord would be the only entity to which they could turn for strength.

First, let us consider a few names from the Old Testament that persevered. How about Job? If anyone endeavored to persevere, it was he. Job overcame great difficulties and tremendous odds all because of his faith in the Lord.

Let us remember the stories of Joshua and his armies; and David besting Goliath. All of these accounts tell us of the Lord’s people who endured and overcame because of faith. Of course we also find glorious resolve in the New Testament. Just by reading the accounts of Christ’s life and death in the four gospels, we see the ultimate in perseverance.

In *1 Timothy 4:16* Paul tells us, “*Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, be-*

cause if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers”. If we persevere to comply with the understandable Scriptures in our life and teaching, we will share in the rewards that God has promised us. In *Hebrews 10:35-36* the writer, probably Paul exhorts all: “*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God you will receive what he has promised.*” We can take comfort in the knowledge offered by the Scriptures that there is truly a reward for us for which we must endeavor to persevere.

The Lord tells the church in Philadelphia, “*Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial.*” (*Rev. 3:10*). God would keep those persevering from the trial that would come upon the condemned world. Connecting to God through persistent prayer, and abiding in Him with confidence as to the future, we will have the spiritual strength to endeavor to persevere.