

# GLAD TIDINGS

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

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## Back To School Opportunities

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**T**he inspired wise man wrote, “*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that is wise winneth souls*” (Prov. 11:30). Producing fruit that gives life to others does not come from just any source, but only from the righteous who are in the right relationship with God, the giver of all life. Being right with God is the key. God has revealed to us His standard of righteousness is found in the Gospel (*Romans 1:16-17*). That standard is not a righteousness of our own choosing, but only that which comes through faith in Christ (*Philippians 3:9*). From that initial moment of obedience in baptism the righteous are bondservants to righteousness, striving to live a life that is right before God (*Romans 6:17-18*).

Godly living will attract others. They will see the good traits found in those following God’s righteous standard and be desirous to pick the goodness that such a fruit bearing person offers. Their heart is not forced, but is won. The soul then enjoys the blessing of being in the company of the righteous, and the righteous can rejoice in the fact that their

life is characterized by God as truly wise.

As you go back to school this year, you will have opportunities to bless others. Young people, listen to Paul’s exhortation: “*But flee youthful lusts, and follow after righteousness, faith, love, peace with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart*” (2 Timothy 2:22). In your determination to follow righteousness, you will keep yourself sexually pure, by fleeing youthful lusts. You may be the example that some young person needs to resist the strong pressures of their peers. The fruit they see in you is, “Yes, I can keep myself pure until marriage. He or she is walking that path, I can as well.”

Look around you, there will usually be a moment when a certain class mate is being picked on unmercifully, or just needs a word of encouragement. Since you are following after love in your life, you can be the one in seeking their well-being to offer that needed kind word or a helping hand.

As you grow up in a world that is rapidly separating themselves from anything connected

with God, you, having fortified your faith with daily reading and study of the Bible, will probably find a moment to stand up for the Lord and His revealed principles. Others, who may be in doubt, will see your strong defense for God and the Bible and be won due to your following after faith.

New school mates offer new opportunities for winning souls. Your good example may lead them to accept your invitation to our monthly young people’s Bible study and singing. It may lead to their young soul being won to the Lord.

Home schooling offers interesting opportunities. As you return to networking with parents following a Bible oriented curriculum, parents and young people will have opportunities to win souls through righteous living. Already respecting the Bible, the soul lost in denominationalism may be won through your righteous influence. They can see that you can be just a Christian, free from denominational sectarianism. School days are here. Buy up the opportunities!