

# Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XX

December 12, 2010

No. 50

## All Manner Of Holy Living

(Jerry Fite)

**A** Christian is not merely a name, it is a life. The life is not divided up with living for Christ part-time, in the midst of living for self and others. The Christian lives as the name suggests: as one totally belonging to Christ. This does not mean we do not consider our various relationships, or think them to be unimportant. Living as a Christian permeates all corners of life. Peter implies this and offers us a solid foundation for living when he writes, “*Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness. . .*” (2 Peter 3:11).

Peter tells us to be wise as we assess our earthly existence. The earth beneath our feet and the heavenly space above our heads are all destined to be dissolved with fervent heat. The temporal has no eternal future. The wise will focus on the spiritual. The question is, “What manner of person should I then be?” Should I divide my life into being religious on Sunday and Wednesday and being a secularist and materialist the rest of my week? Does Christ guide me in how to worship, but takes a back seat in my business decisions? Peter says our focus should be on “all holy living and

godliness. As a Christian, our entire life is set apart for God and we serve the Lord with piety and reverence. Peter earlier pointed this out: “. . . *but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, ‘Ye shall be holy; for I am holy’*” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

### Righteous in Business

Instructed in God’s grace, the Christian will “*live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world*” (Titus 2:12). Living righteously will be reflected in our daily business decisions. Being honest and doing what is right in business is not only profitable in staying in business, but it has always been demanded by God for His people (Deuteronomy 25:15-16, Luke 3:13, Colossians 4:1). Godly living and doing what is right are inseparable in the Christian’s life.

### Gracious with Enemies

Along the way, the Christian will experience evil. People will lie about you and try to hurt you. Do we take a break from being a Christian, and reflect worldly thinking by seeking how

to get even? The Christian must manifest the character of the Lord by blessing and praying for the well-being of one’s enemies, instead of cursing them (Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 12:4). Rendering evil in the face of evil may be tempting, but “*taking thought for things honorable in the sight of all men*” is fixed in the Christian (Romans 12:17). Seeking vengeance is out; giving place for God’s vindicating justice is in. “*Vengeance belongs to God*” and the godly believes and relents (Romans 12:19). The Christian goes the extra mile by feeding his enemy when he hungers, and giving drink when he thirsts (Romans 12:20). Overcoming evil with good is one manner of holy living.

### Heartily at Work

“*Whatsoever ye do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men*” (Colossians 3:23). Regardless of the work we do, we are to put our heart into it, as serving our Lord. He is before our eyes, even when others are not watching us saw, shovel, type, or compute. These are samples of “all manner of holy living”.