

# Glad Tidings

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

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## I Love To Tell The Story

(Jerry Fite)

A modern newspaper reporter could have reported the story regarding Jesus as the following: “Male, Jew, about 33 years old. Alleged victim of a mob, executed over religious differences to avoid civil unrest. Some claim that he came back to life, and they call themselves Christians.” Facts are presented, but they do not fully tell the Story of Jesus. When Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel preached unto them, he points to Jesus’ death as being “for our sins” and his resurrection on “the third day” as fulfilling, and in accordance with the Old Testament Scriptures (*I Corinthians 15:3-4*). This gospel message was not just telling cold hard facts, but relating Jesus’ death and resurrection to our faith. We can stand in it and be saved by it if we hold fast to it (*I Corinthians 15:1-2*).

Because the Gospel is God’s power to save us from our sins, we should love to tell the story of Jesus. Knowing how it relates to our eternal well-being, we should never tire of reflecting and proclaiming the Gospel message.

I love to tell the story when I am overwhelmed by the guilt of sin. The good news is God’s kindness, mercy and love has appeared bringing salvation to even those who have served all sorts of lusts and pleasures, lived in malice, and hate their fellow man (*Titus 1:3-7*). Paul loved to tell the story of Jesus as Saviour, because He saved him, “the chiefest of sinners” (*I Timothy 1:15*). Paul was able to recount his past acts of persecuting the followers of Jesus without overwhelming guilt because he knew he had been forgiven by a gracious God through Jesus who came to earth to “save sinners” (*I Timothy 1:15*).

I love to tell the Story when sin no longer matters. In such times I need to wake up and realize sin matters so much to God in that he had to send his son to die. God’s character demands He be just with sin as He seeks to justify the sinner (*Romans 3:26*). This demanded death, and Jesus died for our sins, appeasing God’s judicial wrath against us (*Romans 5:8-11, I Jn. 4:10*).

I love to tell the story when this present world feels comfortable. Paul gloried in the cross and it has definite consequences. Through the cross “the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (*Galatians 6:14*). The worldly mind rejects the message of the cross as “foolishness” and is therefore dead to it. But Paul, in glorying in the cross, also has been crucified unto the world rejecting its appeal. Paul died to self, so Christ could live in Him (*Gal. 2:20*).

I love to tell the story when self-interest begins to control me. I am to have the same mind of Christ who in considering the needs of others, emptied Himself of the glories of heaven and came to earth to die, even the shameful death of the cross (*Philippians 2:3-8*). One message of the cross is Jesus did not come to be ministered unto, “but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (*Mk. 10:45*).

Loving to tell the story of Jesus is commendable. Reflecting upon it is spiritually motivating!