

# Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXIII

June 23, 2013

No. 25

## GOD HATES

(Jerry Fite)

It may be shocking to learn that our sinless God is “jealous”; that our good God is the creator of “evil”; and our loving God “hates.” But all are true. God’s righteous zeal for His people is so strong that He refuses to have them worship any other being (*Exodus 20:5*). Jehovah rules among kings who do not even know Him, making peace, or creating difficult or evil times for others (*Isaiah 45:7*). Yes, our loving God also hates those idols men place beside His altar (*Deuteronomy 16:21-22*).

Like love, hate conveys strong feeling. Just what does God hate?

God hates false teaching and seductive ways which lead people away from Him. God commended the Christians in Ephesus for “*thou hatest the works of the Nicolaitans which I also hate*” (*Revelation 2:6*). As the teaching of Balaam was a stumbling block to purity, the “*teaching*” of the Nicolaitans drew people away from their Holy God (*Revelation 2:15*).

God created man with eyes, hands, feet, a heart and a tongue. But “*haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood; a heart that deviseth wicked purposes, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that uttereth lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren*” are such things God hates (*Proverbs 6:1-19*).

In our day when cruel violence is glamorized in movies, we need to remember that God hates such: “*him that loveth violence, His soul hateth*” (*Psalms 11:5*). When we think God accepts our worship on Sunday, when we live wickedly during the week, we need to remember what God said to his own people: “*I hate, I despise your feasts, and will take no delight in your solemn assemblies*” (*Amos 5:21*). When we think we can divorce our mates on a whim, and break the covenant we have made before God, we need to remember God “*hates divorce*” (*Malachi 2:16*). When we think we can mistreat our neighbor, and make false promises in the form of oaths, we need to

remember: “*let none of you devise evil in your hearts against your neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these things are things that I hate, saith Jehovah*” (*Zechariah 8:17*).

In summary, David says God “*hatest all workers of iniquity*” (*Psalms 5:5*). We should also. This does not mean we hate the person created in the image of God to the point of contempt leading the heart to sinful anger and murder (*Matthew 5:21-23*). But, we should hate the sin that person commits and practices. God says there is “*a time to hate*”, just as there is a time to love (*Ecclesiastes 3:8*). If we fear the Lord, we will “*hate evil*” (*Proverbs 8:13*). If we have true understanding of God’s precepts, we will “*hate every false way*” (*Psalms 119:104*).

God does not want just half of a godly person. He wants one who loves and hates. It is easy to claim we love God and His righteous ways, but proof comes when we hate evil as strongly as we love righteousness. God hates. Do You?