

Glad Tidings

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

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Not Trivial

(Jerry Fite)

After Moses exalted God’s goodness and severity before the ears of God’s people, he concludes, “...set your heart unto all the words which I testify unto you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, even all the words of this law. For it is no vain thing for you; because it is your life, and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over the Jordan to possess it” (Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

Obeying God’s word should never be trivial in our mind. Moses exhorts all to set their heart on it; command their children to obey it – all of it; for it is your life! “It” – obeying all of God’s word – was not an empty exercise in Moses’ day, nor is it vain for us today. It is our Life!

God’s word was revealed to be obeyed. Jesus helps us see the importance of obedience by pointing out that it is what distinguishes a wise man from a fool. Jesus says the wise man is everyone who “*heareth these words of mine and doeth them*”; and the foolish man is everyone who “*heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not*” (Matthew 7:24,

26). Jesus had just completed His words regarding the spiritual kingdom, and the conduct of its citizens. All of Jesus’ words from the mountain are to be heard and obeyed. Such is not a trivial matter, unless you think the foundation of your house is not very important. That was the focus of Jesus’ parable: foundation on the rock, or building on the sand. Who would ever look at houses collapsing, and not think of the loss of life?

Obeying God’s word connects us to saving faith. Paul, by inspiration, opens and closes his letter to the Romans with “*obedience of faith*” among all the nations as the goal for Paul’s apostleship in exalting Christ and His grace (Romans 1:5; 16:25-26). When Paul preached “*the Gospel*”, he preached “*the faith*” (Galatians 1:8, 23). One is not saved from their sins, till they obey the Gospel. Like Jesus says, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16). Obeying the Gospel is not trivial, it is essential to salvation from sin and life in Christ.

Before we heed the word in obedience, we have to hear the word. By reading what God has

revealed, we have the word in our hearts to be applied in our life. The light we are to “*hold forth*” to the dark world to heed is no trivial body of literature, it is “*the word of life*” (Philippians 2:15-16). Should we not keep it constantly fresh in our mind, and consistently guiding our steps throughout life? Before we can obey all of it, we must know all of it. And, that can come by reading all of it! Therefore, Daily Bible Reading is not trivial, it is our life!

Staying close to God’s word will keep us in tune with His heart. God wants all men to be saved, and Jesus came to this world to save the lost (1 Timothy 2:4, Lk. 19:10). Therefore, we should obey God’s Will as “*faithful*” men and women by “*teaching others*”, so they can live (2 Timothy 2:2). We should never regard interacting personally with people in the world with the focus on leading them to Christ through the Gospel as a trivial matter. It is a matter of life: ours and the lost!

When finished, Moses climbed Mt. Nebo to hear God tell him he would not enter the promise land because of his disobedience. Obeying all of God’s word is not trivial, but it is our life!