

# Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXIV

February 9, 2014

No. 6

## The Way Of Truth Blasphemed

(Jerry Fite)

Is it just me, or do you feel frustrated when Christianity is blasphemed with false accusations? Atheists charge “*the church*” with killing countless numbers of Muslims and Protestants during “the crusades”. But this was the Roman Catholic Church in action, not the church following the New Testament. The New Testament church follows the Lord through Paul’s inspired words who established God’s way of combating error: “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).

The church that Jesus built was in existence hundreds of years before the Roman Catholic Church, so the Lord’s church should not be accused of ever believing in the existence of Limbo for deceased un-baptized infants (once taught by Catholic leaders), or Purgatory. Christians in the Lord church never have believed

such doctrines, for they are not found in the New Testament. Yet, Atheists may charge “the church” and “Christianity” with foolish beliefs that the truth of the Gospel never teaches. It may be just another way among many in which the way of truth is blasphemed.

We, who claim to be Christians and members of the church Jesus built, can act so as to cause truth to be blasphemed. The way of truth is characterized by holy living, as we reflect the holy character of God (1 Peter 1:14-16). When teachers outwardly profess Christ, but inwardly have eyes full of adultery and hearts exercised in covetousness lead people in the way of lasciviousness instead of holiness, truth will be blasphemed. Peter warned us of this: “*And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of*” (2 Peter 2:2, cf. v.14).

Peter reminds us the teacher who emphasizes God’s grace to the neglect of self-controlled holy living may have already replaced Jesus with his own lusts as the real master of his life. Eventually the heart exercised in covetousness surfaces.

Often it manifests itself in sexual sins or financial scams. The world then has a field day in speaking against Christianity. Did you hear of the affair that the “church of Christ” preacher or elder had? How could that preacher or elder cheat so many people out of their hard earned money? The truth of Christ is not being exalted, but it is surely being spoken against.

Christians need to make sure they are following God’s word in their family relationships. Paul exhorted wives “*to be sober minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed*” (Titus 2:5). The world may judge us by what they see in our marriages before hearing us on the plan of salvation. Why would I want to be a Christian if that is what a “Christian family” looks like?

Christians must make sure their liberties do not become a stumbling block to others. A man’s conscience may have been molded by a stricter standard than what the Gospel allows. We must consider that in order that “*we not be evil spoken of*” (1 Corinthians 10:30). May we never provide the opportunity for truth to be blasphemed!