

Glad Tidings

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

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Spiritual Maintenance

(Jerry Fite)

Look around you. Do you see many things that do not need to be maintained? The freshly cut grass will need mowing next week. The neatly trimmed hedge will need another clipping before long. Another 3, 5 or 10,000 miles will find your car having another oil change. When has any one cleaned house thinking it was a once and for all time chore? Clean homes, functional machinery, and manicured yards demand diligent maintenance. So do our souls if we are to remain spiritually healthy.

God's written word provides essential nourishment for our healthy souls. We need a healthy appetite for it. *“As newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation”* (1 Peter 2:2). A onetime feeding is not enough. We need to read and meditate on the word of God often. The well nourished and established man is he whose *“delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on His law doth he meditate day and night”* (Psalm 1:2).

The more our eyes are enlightened, and our hearts are rejoicing in the truth of God's word (Psalm 19: 7-8), the more we will

want to meditate on God's perfect law. When we do not maintain a reading discipline, we lag in spiritual enjoyment. We soon have no desire to meditate upon God's word. We cease to grow spiritually. Continue to read the Word in order to maintain spiritual health.

We must have our memories refreshed periodically to remain spiritually sound. Peter wrote his letters *“to stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance”* (2 Peter 3:1). Peter reminded his fellow Christians of the doctrinal error they would be facing that would affect their spiritual health and eternal salvation. God's prophets and apostles had warned them initially, but Peter reminds them again that mockers will come walking after their own lusts, and contradict the truth of the Lord's promise to return (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Some believe we do not need to know what the doctrinal error is, but only the truth in order to be spiritually healthy. Just tell me the doctrinal truth regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage. I do not need to know all the error that is out there, and the identification of those who teach it. Thinking I do not need to know the error that has been taught and

preached on fellowship and Romans 14 is apparently in vogue because of the lack of preaching on such issues. Peter disagrees with such thinking. He not only told his brethren “who” and “what” regarding doctrinal error, but continued to remind them of what they would be facing. *“Ye therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware lest, being carried away by the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own steadfastness”* (2 Peter 3:17). Maintaining spiritual health demands being reminded of both, truth and contrasting error.

Reflecting on God's Holy character is needed spiritual maintenance: *“but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because as it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy”* (1 Peter 1:15-16). God does not put on holiness one day, and take it off the next. He is holy. So should we. In all facets of our living, a divine holiness should radiate at its core.

We maintain spiritual health by growing. We are to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18-19). It keeps us from falling.