

Glad Tidings

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

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Seeking the Lost & Preserving the Saved

(Osby Weaver)

FOr centuries the creeds, dogmas, and doctrines of men propagating denominationalism and sectarianism completely overshadowed and hid from view the scheme of redemption which was delivered almost 2000 years ago by Him whose voice even the winds and waves obey.

More than a century ago humanity was in a restless state. Being thoroughly dissatisfied with the wisdom of men knowing that it “is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps”, realizing that it is a case of “the blind leading the blind,” they began to dig down through the denominational obstacles which had been erected, seeking once again for the truth of Him who “dwelleth not in temples made with hands.”

“The Bible our only rule of faith and practice” was their principle of action, and “Where the Bible speaks we speak, and where the Bible is silent, we are silent,” became their battle cry! Putting on the whole armor of God and unsheathing the old sword of the Spirit which is the word of God – Eph. 6:17, they went forth to battle spiritual wickedness in high places. Tearing down the strong-holds of Satan, casting aside the traditions of men, and uprooting theological theories, they restored again the Lord’s

church among men, in all its splendor to outshine the institutions built by men, as the sun outshines the splendid planets that in their orbits around him revolve. Again Christians were afforded the comfort and hope for which humanity sighs, and sinners were again pointed to “Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.”

They were victorious, but those victories did not come without sacrifices. Every bit of progress made, every soul won, every new territory taken for the Lord came by toil, and sweat, and tears and prayers. Those faithful gospel preachers traveled mile upon mile on the back of a horse or donkey, or afoot through the valleys or up the mountains, across the prairies, fording rivers, subjecting themselves to perils of the country, perils of hunger, (they had no Golden Corals) privations, loneliness, and the varied experiences which are humanities to bear and share. Month after month and year after this was their lot while their faithful wives remained behind keeping the home fires burning as best as they could in absence of their husbands. Why did they do this? In order to help in the preaching of the gospel to a lost humanity. They loved the souls of men and they loved their Lord.

Actually in some ways they did it for you and me. Things are as uniformly pleasant for us today as they are, because of the battles that were fought and won by those who have gone before. As while we assemble in favorable surroundings, let us say “LORD God of Hosts, be with us yet, lest we forget – lest we forget.” The sacrifices which they made, among other things, make these things possible for us. But more still, it will incite in us a firm determination to so live that those generations yet unborn will have the same privileges and opportunities that have been made possible for us to enjoy.

Their failing hands, have thrown us the torch, it is ours to hold it high, that it may be a beacon unto those who are groping in spiritual darkness in that path that leads to that city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God.

If we be doers of the word and not hearers only, until our pilgrimage upon God’s footstool is at an end, we will have anchored our souls in the haven of rest, to sail the wide seas no more. The tempest may sweep o’er the wild and stormy deep, but in Jesus we’re save evermore.