

Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXV

August 30, 2015

No. 35

Wisdom For Relationships

(Jerry Fite)

Trusting in God demands humility. One places God’s wisdom above one’s own understanding. *“Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart, and lean not upon thine own understanding: In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths”* (Proverbs 3:5-6). When we acknowledge God in all facets of life, and consequently submit to His wisdom, He will direct the paths we take in life.

How may God do this? He has not specified everything regarding our daily lives. How many hours should we sleep? What should we eat? What should be our occupation in making a living? How often should we pray and evangelize? God has not given us a detailed plan for our daily 24 hours.

When we acknowledge God, humbling ourselves to His specified priorities, and specific commands, we will live wisely. In essence, God will have been the author for our paths we take through the day, though He did not specify hour by hour activity.

God gives us wisdom for our relationships. He can do this without specifying every specific

path we take with one another. For example, God has given specific commands to parents, but when you take them all in, most of what you do in a day with your children are not specifically given in Scripture. For example, you will need a lot of wisdom in disciplining without discouraging (*Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21*).

God gives us a wise principle which will work in our relationships, from our children and family, to our brethren and the people we interact with in the world. Paul exhorts the Philippians to be *“...doing nothing through faction or through vain glory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others”* (Philippians 2:3-4).

Humility is the key in our relationships with others. Acknowledging God, we do not seek our own glory, or the vain ambition of making ourselves the center of attention. Instead, we count others better than ourselves. We do not cut ourselves down to occupy the basement when comparing physically or mentally with others. But it does demand the humility to not only see the needs

of others, but even meet them when our own desires must be put temporarily on hold. Such wisdom may arise in a parent’s life when he or she puts their own plans on hold to comply with a child’s invitation to play a game with them.

Jesus is an example of humbling ourselves to meet the needs of those who may be our enemies. As a humble servant, Jesus died for all, offering salvation, even to those who did not love Him (*Phil. 3:5-8, Rom. 5:8*).

Timothy is an example of placing the things of Christ and the spiritual state of others before his own things. Timothy served Paul humbly in furthering the gospel (*Phil. 3:19-22*). You will take wise paths when the spiritual well-being of others is foremost in your heart.

Epaphroditus is an example of anticipating feelings of others, placing them above his own. He was worried, not about his own sickness, but that the brethren had *“heard he was sick, and nigh unto death”* (*Phil. 3:26*). He wanted their worries eased, not sympathy. Are you manifesting wisdom’s humility in your relationships?