

# Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXV

October 18, 2015

No. 42

## Anticipating Worship

(Jerry Fite)

When Abraham told his young traveling companions that He and Isaac would “*go yonder; and we will worship*” (*Genesis 22:5*), he was anticipating or foreseeing worship. Abraham was planning to go to the proper place, one of the mountains in the land of Moriah, and offer an authorized burnt offering as worship unto God (*Genesis 22:2, 9*). In Scripture, not everything you do every minute of your life is “worship”. The worship under consideration is going somewhere, where one is not presently, and doing something, which one is not presently doing. Abraham had made preparations to go and worship.

Do you anticipate gathering with your brethren in Christ to worship the Lord? The Lord gladly identified Himself with the Psalmist and His brethren to offer praise to God. “*I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the congregation will I sing thy praise*” (*Heb. 2:12, Psalm 22:22*).

Do you foresee and even foretaste our public worship ser-

vices? Or, does the time for being at worship crowd out your spiritual thoughts? Do we rush to the place of worship, with little forethought of worship? Two or three songs into the worship services, do we finally comply with the desires expressed in the opening prayer and “clear our minds of all worldly thoughts”?

We may not know the specific songs before worship services, but we can anticipate the nature of these songs. They are “spiritual songs”, especially those that express verbal praise: “psalms” and “hymns”. We can anticipate gathering with like-minded brethren to teach and admonish one another with these songs. (*Colossians 3:16*).

We can anticipate the reasons why we should “praise Him”, “glorify Him” and “stand in awe of Him” (*Psalm 22:23*). The fact that God is the source of life, both physical and spiritual, is a wonderful thought for praise. “*Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee*” (*Psalm 119:175*). God’s strong character of “love” and “truth” are permanent reasons

for praise (*Psalm 117:1-2*). Filling our minds with such reasons for praise, we will be ready to not only say the words one to another, but with a heart wound tight with thoughtful anticipation, we will gladly release inward praise heavenward in the midst of a joyous congregation.

Our worship services will include prayer. So, brethren who lead in prayer should consider beforehand the specific needs of the congregation, both physical and spiritual (*3 Jn. 2; Colossians 4:2-12; Acts 12:5, 12*).

Discerning the meaning of Christ’s body and shed blood as it pertains to our salvation can be anticipated as we look forward to partaking the Lord’s supper on the first day of the week (*1 Corinthians 11:29,26*). Reflecting on how God has prospered us, we can anticipate giving cheerfully on the Lord’s day (*1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Cor. 9:7*).

Anticipating our worship services, we can begin worship already warmed up with edifying thoughts, even when rushed!