

Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXVIII

February 25, 2018

No. 08

FOCUSED ENERGY

(Jerry Fite)

We feel good about ourselves when we give our all to accomplish a task. When giving our all, the total effort seems to energize us more to take on the next task, and the next. Conversely, when we do not give our best, we know it subconsciously. Even when the task is accomplished, we are not happy with ourselves. In the back of our minds, we know we could have put forth a better effort.

With personal anecdotal experiences, we could offer good advice about living: if you want to be happy with yourself tomorrow, give all that is in you in accomplishing today's task. But, do we do things only because they make us feel good about ourselves, increasing happiness? God's Word allows us to dig deeper under the surface of feel-good-mentality. Being anchored in the depths of God's infallible wisdom should be our goal.

Concerning our tasks under the sun, God tells us, “*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is not work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in Sheol, whither thou*

goest” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). God implores us to use “*our might,*” or “*all your might*” (NAS) when we do anything. We should not approach our tasks nonchalantly, or throttle back our energy in accomplishing various tasks.

God offers us a sobering thought to motivate us to expend our all. In telling us that there is no work, device, knowledge or wisdom in the place we go to in death, God implies that the task before us today is where these attributes must be applied. There will be no listing of things to do, nor invention of tools to make a task easier, nor applying knowledge and wisdom to our work above ground in the underground realm of Sheol. The opportunity to accomplish earthly tasks is limited to this world. What a shame to go through life, and not apply all our abilities to their fullest extent. Such opportunities to accomplish a work under the sun will not be ours in the world to come. So, do it now, and do it with everything you have in you.

God takes our focus deeper than mere life under the sun. Paul writes, “*Whatsoever ye*

do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men” (Colossians 3:23). Doing something “heartily” literally means “from the soul.” There should be passion in our work. The passion should be tempered with a proper understanding that we are doing each task “as unto the Lord.” Our loving Lord deserves our best!

Doing our deeds rises above men watching us, or even approving us. Our focus is upon doing that which the Lord looks upon with favor. No half-hearted service is tolerated: “*In diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord*” (Romans 12:11). Bought from the slave master of sin, purified from our sins, and begotten to a living hope should charge our batteries to do the work of the Lord with boiling fervency (Titus 2:14).

Determine to do each task with “might,” not with lethargic indifference. Do each work demanded by the Lord “heartily.” When you are tempted to slack up, remember your opportunities to employ your abilities in work under the sun will end someday. It is the Lord you are working for, not men. Thus focused, you should give it your all.