

Glad Tidings

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

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“Always”

(Jerry Fite)

You always do this! Such a statement usually borders on hyperbole, for one usually does not literally “always” do this or that. A wife may say to her inattentive husband that he “always” ignores her when she is talking. This may not be literally true, for when she is talking about dinner, he is probably all ears. But her point is well taken, for his inattentiveness seems perpetual, or at least, it often occurs.

The Greek words translated “always” in the New Testament convey this same perpetual concept. Vine’s summary of “always” is: “the idea being that of a continuance practice carried on without being abandoned.” Let us take a moment to consider what God expects to be in our lives “always.”

God’s people must “always” obey. Paul exhorts the brethren in Philippi to continue their past practice. “*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*” (Philippians 2:12). This is simply following the example of Jesus before His Father. Jesus said “...for I do always the things that are pleasing

to Him” (John 8:29). Do you always obey the teachings of God, regardless of who is watching?

Christians should pray to God “always.” We are to be “*giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Ephesians 5:20). Prayer keeps us constantly alert for our own well-being, as well as that of our brethren. Paul exhorts us to be “*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints*” (Ephesians 6:18). Do you pray “always” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)? In other words, is prayer a continual practice in your daily life?

Christians should be always growing in their spiritual work in the Lord. Paul sums up our victory over death through the resurrected Christ by exhorting, “*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 15:58). Has the reality of the end of time moved you to be perpetually increasing in your work in the

Lord? Remember, shining the light of life and immortality by teaching others the Gospel is a work of eternal significance (2 Timothy 1:10).

The followers of Christ must always be ready to help the inquirer to see foundational truths. Peter tells us to “...*sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear...*” (1 Peter 3:15). Are you constantly refreshing your mind in the word of God, so you can always be ready to give answer?

We are to always obey, pray, abound in the work of the Lord and be ready to give answer. As we determine to be perpetually involved in these areas without ever abandoning them, may we be encouraged with what God will “always” do. He will always supply what is needed, so we can always grow. “*And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work*” (2 Corinthians 9:8). Let us receive these truths, and manifest them in our lives, always.