

Glad Tidings

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

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Praying For The Gospel

(Jerry Fite)

Paul had a prayer request. He asked the Thessalonians to, “*pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified even as also it is with you*” (2 Thessalonians 3:2). He asked it not out of a desire to live a long life on earth, but from his desire for Heaven’s message to spread widely.

It is interesting to note that Paul did not ask for prayer to make the Gospel more powerful. The message founded upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). It does not need to be mixed with prayer to release some magical ingredient that will inexplicably save souls. But the Gospel with its clear and understandable message cannot save if it is not communicated through preaching and teaching. Paul needed prayers to go up to God to help him be bold and speak as he ought (cf. Ephesians 6:19-20). Our focus in praying for the Gospel should be the same as Paul’s: not that the word of the Lord be more powerful, but that it be more accessible.

We need to pray for the Gospel today as Paul requested of Christians in the first century: that

God’s Word have free course to the hearts of men, and consequently be glorified due to its great and eternal message of salvation.

This week we embark on a joyfully anticipated journey to spread the Gospel in our area directly, and through modern technology, potentially encompass the world. Look at the announcements we are passing out. Notice the topics that will be presented. Non-Christians will have the opportunity to see how Jesus fulfilled what the Old Testament prophets were promising: the coming of the Jew’s *Messiah*, the anointed One of God. The lesson on “*What Think Ye Of Christ?*” will move the thoughtful visitor to consider one’s personal relationship with Jesus. The attendee will examine his or her motives for listening as the “*Are you listening?*” sermon is applied.

The Christian will be reminded with the Lord’s own words of how His death is the focus of the “*Lord’s Supper*.” On the Lord’s day, the reminder experience will broaden to emphasize our responsibility to reach the world with the proclamation of the Gospel. Our commitment will

be deepened as we examine “*The Great Truths From The Great Commission*.”

All in our community could profit to know Jesus’ teaching concerning “*Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage*.” Ignorance is rampant on this subject! The consequences of not knowing and honoring Jesus’ words regarding the permanency of marriage is eternal in nature for we will be judged in the last day by the “*word*” of Jesus (John 12:48). The visitor will hear Jesus on the subject as He says, “*But I say unto you...*” (Matthew 19:9).

In our present turned upside down world with daily reminders of what is right is wrong, and what is wrong is right, our hearts can look bleakly into the future with fear. Knowing what *fear* can do to *faith*, a reminder of how *faith* overcomes *fear* is helpful.

What a way to end the week with hearing the “*Last Parables of our Lord*.” How we should live now as we look to the future universal Judgment will be profitable for all. When we raise our heads after “praying for the Gospel,” will we be present to be accessible to the Lord’s teachings in Matthew?