

Glad Tidings

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

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The Gospel Is For All

(Jerry Fite)

Jesus left His chosen apostles with the commission to preach the Gospel throughout the world. All needed the message of Christ in order to be saved (*Mark 16:16*). Today, the apostles are no longer here to walk the earth saving souls, but we stand in our time and place knowing that God desires every soul to be saved (*1 Tim. 2:4*).

The phrase, “every creature,” the object of Christ’s gospel, means we are to be concerned with souls that are in other parts of the world. Separated by seas, is no deterrent to those convicted by Jesus’ desire. The Aegean Sea did not keep Saul from following through with the “Macedonian Call” (*Acts 16:9-10*). Paul reached the souls of men and women with the Gospel in Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth and Ephesus (*Acts 16:12, 17:1, 18:1, 19*).

Today, we are concerned for souls throughout the world. Knowing the Gospel is the only power of God for salvation (*Romans 1:16*). We support men who faithfully carry out their responsibility of reaching the lost as they travel to and live among people in foreign lands.

Having the desire that souls in foreign places are saved and strengthened by the preaching of the Gospel will move one to eagerly review the monthly reports posted in the foyer. Men take time to report about their work in spreading the seed of God’s word in foreign fields. You do read them, don’t you?

The Gospel is for all. This includes your neighbor, and the citizens of our local community. The people we work with and fellow school-mates are souls destined for eternity in Heaven or Hell. Yes, they may reject your teaching efforts and be eternally lost. But they cannot reject the Gospel if they do not have the opportunity to receive it. Hope thrives in anticipating that our next contact will embrace the saving message, as approximately 3,000 souls did in Jerusalem (*Acts 2:41*). But there is no hope for one and no doubt of his or her eternal destiny if one never hears the Gospel. We should be driven every day with optimism and readiness to give those in daily contact with us an opportunity to be saved by the Word of Christ.

The Gospel is for all. This includes Christians who must

continue to grow in the Word. The word of good tidings which is preached is the word of the Lord which will abide forever (*1 Peter 1:25*). We must continue to feed our spiritual appetites with the word of the Lord as we grow unto Heaven (*1 Peter 2:2*). The word of God’s grace is able to build us up and insure our inheritance among the sanctified (*Acts 20:32*). Initial salvation, by knowing the significance of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection through the Gospel is only the beginning. We continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, protecting ourselves from eternal destruction (*2 Peter 3:18*).

This week we have the opportunity each day to provide our neighbors, classmates, and fellow workers with the opportunity to hear the saving message of the Gospel. As you are planting your spring garden, remind yourself if you do not plant the seed, you will not have an edible garden. Look around you and remember, the Gospel is for all. Go ahead and invite that precious soul to hear the preaching of the Word. Attend yourself each day. The Gospel is for all, even you and me who must remain in the Word to grow unto Heaven.