

Glad Tidings

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

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Our Measuring Standard

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When trying to work out the correct rhythm in playing a piece of music, a metronome is an excellent tool to use. You can measure your since of timing to the tick tock sound of the swinging pendulum. It is your standard. The Greek word “metron,” rooted in “metronome” denotes “measuring.” The same word is used when setting before us the standard of measuring our spiritual growth in Christ. Paul says our journey to the fully grown man is “*unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*” *Ephesians 4:13*). Christ reveals His fulness in His Word and we are to place it before our mind’s eye and grow according to its “measure.”

To measure ourselves by our selves or find some sort of satisfaction in measuring ourselves against the failures of others is foolishness (*cf. 2 Corinthians 10:12*). Let us take a quick look at how Christ lived, and measure our spiritual maturity by Him.

Jesus saw His days as limited, and filled them with doing the will of God. He said, “*We must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work*” (*John 9:4*). Jesus overcame being tired and worn out

by focusing on His days as the opportunity to be the light of the world and do His miraculous works. While we are not equipped to do miracles, we can keep in mind that our time is also limited on earth, and we should fill the days we have by doing the will of the Father. Do we look at our days as limited and fill them with glorifying God, or do we, like many, assume our days are limitless and waste them away in unproductive selfishness?

Jesus prayed for his enemies to be blessed instead of doing evil and getting even with them. We see Jesus hanging from the cross and praying that God would forgive His executioners, seeing their deeds issued from ignorance (*Luke 23:34*). Peter writes that Jesus left us an example, “*who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: who when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously*” (*1 Peter 2:22-23*).

Think of the last frustrating moment you had when people did you wrong. How did you react? Did you get even by retaliating in like kind? Many around you in the world would do so. But Jesus is your standard, not what many around you in the world would do. Jesus is your standard, not your hurt feelings crying for vengeance. If

Jesus is our standard of measuring our lives, we will, like Jesus, pray for God to bless those who have done us wrong. We will follow up our prayers of blessing with helping them in the time of their need, and commit our situation to God who will judge all men righteously (*Romans 12:14, 20*).

Jesus sacrificed Himself for the well-being of others. Husbands, are you willing to give up yourself for the well-being of your wife? If you have any reservations, remember God is not requiring you to climb up on a cross to be crucified for your wife’s sins. Your Lord has already offered that sacrifice once and for all. But are you willing to sacrifice yourself in terms of time, money, offering spiritual leadership for your wife’s well-being? Do you measure yourself with the Lord’s constant example of “selflessness” (*Ephesians 5:25*)?

Do we apply Jesus’ example of sacrifice when we see our brethren in need or hear their cries for help? John says that from a heart of compassion we should lay down our lives in the form of our goods to help others. (*1 John 3:16-17*).

Let us keep Jesus as our measuring standard as we grow to maturity. Heaven demands it, the world needs it, and others will be greatly blessed by it!