

Glad Tidings

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

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Folly Of Hasty Judgments

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Walking in wisdom involves making judgments. Solomon, revealing the wisdom of God, teaches us to be careful in forming our judgments. He writes, “*He that giveth answer before he heareth, it is folly and shame unto him*” (Proverbs 18:13).

The sadness of the rioting in our nation’s capital was intensified when we learned that a Capital Police officer died during the onslaught. Two men were initially charged with spraying a strong chemical irritant at officer Brian Sicknick. Fourteen weeks later, the medical examiner performing the autopsy reported that he found no evidence of any allergic reaction to chemical irritants. He also found no evidence of internal or external injuries. The medical examiner ruled that officer Sicknick suffered two strokes at the base of the brain stem caused by a clot in the artery supplying blood to the body. He collapsed 7 hours and 40 minutes after engaging the rioters. He then died 24 hours later.

But before all the facts came to public view, politically biased house leaders referred to a New York Times report that officer Sicknick had been struck in the head with a fire extinguisher. The knee-jerk biased narrative was unleashed upon the public from those looking

for a cause to impeach the President of the United States. Later the New York Times “updated” their story by saying there was no evidence of blunt-force trauma. But a false narrative had done its devilish work.

Hearing all the facts before answering a matter is wise and helps us avoid folly and personal shame. Notice “pre-judging” is the very essence of “prejudice.” Political party bias and racial prejudice are societal arenas where jumping to conclusions without hearing all the facts can be an easy leap. Judging matters without hearing the pertinent facts occur in religion as well.

Our faith should come from what the word of God clearly reveals (Romans 10:17). Without investigating the whole truth, many believe what others say. We should be taught all of what God has revealed (Acts 20:27) and refuse to make judgments based upon “appearance,” but on the basis of the “righteous” standard found in the gospel of Christ (John 7:24, Romans 1:17). Prejudice says we are “unloving” when we condemn homosexuality. Yet it is factual that same-sex intercourse will keep one from heaven (I Corinthians 6:10). True love for the soul of man rises when one implores another to turn from this or any other damning illicit sexual relationship (Acts 3:19).

We may see our neighbor or fellow Christian do things that on the surface we think we would never do. For example, we may be quick to condemn a parent for turning their back on a child, or the decision of elders in the church to not support a certain preacher.

To condemn various actions of parents or elders in the church before we have heard all the facts is a foolish thing to do, bringing shame upon us when the facts are established. Parents may be refusing to give more money to support a lazy son or daughter who will not work to improve his or her life, and have become parasites on others. The elders may have information as to the error a certain preacher and are unwilling to have the souls they oversee subjected to the influence of such error. We should always believe the best in others (I Corinthians 13:7), and then only give answer regarding a matter or character of others after we have heard all the facts.

This passage is also good admonition for those times when someone speaks, and you interrupt them to offer your opinions without first hearing all they have to say. Proverbs 18:13 is one of those James 1:19 moments: “be quick to hear and slow to speak and slow to wrath.”