

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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The truth of the gospel

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Cynicism surrounds us as people long for purpose and stability in their lives. What is the meaning of life? And what should be the guiding force in our lives? These are questions fathoming for a solid answer. The Christian has the answer in the truth of the Gospel.

This truth gives us *hope* for our lives. Paul speaks of “... the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel...” (Colossians 1:5). This hope is founded upon the fact of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. Because He lives, in Him we have a lively hope (I Peter 1:3, I Timothy 1:1). This hope, giving us security for our eternal destiny, lifts our sights beyond material riches and therefore protects us from many hurtful lusts that can destroy our soul (I Timothy 6:9-10). This hope solves the problem of priorities in our lives and allows us to concentrate upon sharing our earthly treasures and doing good with the blessings we have received from God. (I Timothy 6:17-20). Security, priority, and a life with a future are the blessings of hope provided for us in the truth of the Gospel.

The truth of the Gospel also provides us with the *perfect guide* for the character of our lives. When the Ephesians heard the word of the truth of the gospel, they not only had the source for their faith, but they had the guide for holy living (Ephesians 1:13, 24). Speaking the truth, controlling a violent temper, eliminating lingering bitterness, working to share with others instead of stealing, replacing corrupt speech with words that edify others in their purity, replacing a spirit of malice with kindness, tenderheartedness and forgiveness characterizes the new man in Christ (Ephesians 1:25-32). What a happy and influential life for good one lives when one patterns his or her life after the demands of the truth of the gospel.

The truth of the gospel becomes the agenda we seek to promote. When men wanted to pollute the basis upon which our salvation is founded, Paul “gave place in subjection, no, not for an hour...” Why? “...that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Galatians 2:5). When Paul saw that a fellow apostle and certain followers “walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel” Paul confronted Peter, the apostle, in front of the other

followers and resisted them and their practice.

We never read of “positive Christianity” being an agenda for Paul and Christians. Are you saying that Christianity is not positive? No, for what is the tenor of this article? But the *emphasis* for Christianity is upon “truth” instead of “being positive”. Truth preached will come in the following form: “preach the word, be urgent in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2). The truth of the gospel was Paul’s focus. It moved him to not compromise the gospel’s truth, no not for an hour. It fortified him to resist peer pressure, and groups who were not walking according to the truth of the gospel.

To a cynical world wondering about life, and a religious world advocating new agendas, we cry, “seek the old paths of the truth of the gospel” Preach the word, and you will be balanced. Take the word and distinctively reprove, rebuke and exhort, and don’t worry about being positive. The truth of the gospel is the scriptural emphasis, not man’s wisdom.