

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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“To Guide The Storm”

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General Lewis Armistead, of the second line, spread his steps to supply the paces of fallen comrades. His colors cut down, with a volley against the bristling line of bayonets; he put his cap on his sword to guide the storm. This is a quote from General James Longstreet, commanding general of I corps of the Army of Northern Virginia CSA. It is in reference to General Armistead's leading his men to the stone fence during “Pickett's Charge” on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. Lewis Armistead was fatally wounded in this charge, and died a few days later in a make shift hospital at the Gettysburg battlefield. He had raised his sword to guide the storm; he was a leader of men, Great praise, and honor is due this brave, unfortunate soul.

In our Christian lives we to have the opportunity to *guide the storm*, to lead the charge so to speak. The Lord gave all of us talents to use in his service, be it handing out tracts and inviting others to assemble with us, or standing in the pulpit preaching the gospel of God. In Matthew 25:15 we read the parable of the talents: *to one he gave five tal-*

ents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. “Each according to their ability” is what the Lord demands. Everyone has limits as to what they can do, but each should do what they can. And although you certainly can push the limits of your ability, we all surely need to rise up to our abilities in all we do for the Lord.

To guide the storm, we need courage. Remember 2 Corinthians 5:6 to 8 as the writer tells us: Being therefore always of good courage, and knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord for we walk by faith, not by sight, we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord. The courage we need comes from the firm belief that we have a heavenly home with the Lord awaiting us. Courage therefore comes deep from within, and like Paul, moves us to say we would rather be absent from the body and at home with the Lord.

I am reminded of an old testament “general” in 1 Samuel 17:4 to 54, named King Saul. he

He and his army encountered Goliath. Goliath challenged Israel to a one on one battle to decide the victor. Saul started looking for his Armistead. And he found the youngest son of Jessie, David.

David quenched his foe, and he changed the course of the conflict he had been injected into, and preceded from there to become the king of Israel. Individual courage in the face of any danger is admirable, but having the courage to face a danger of this magnitude and at these great odds is incredible.

Will we find the courage to *guide the storm*? The battles we face today are just as serious as the battles of old. There might not be a stone and sling, and there might not be a musket and shot, or a sword to rise to lead the charge, but our opportunity to guide the storm comes from the challenge given us by our Lord Jesus Christ. In Mark 16:15 and 16 *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. With our faith and understanding in the Bible, we too, can guide the storm.*