

Glad Tidings

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

Vol. XXIII

January 6, 2013

No. 1

Involved in the Work

(Jerry Fite)

Jesus reflected upon His mission continually. Accomplishing His assigned work transcended the physical necessity of eating, and never waned even when He was weary. Resting at a well was simply an opportunity to point a Samaritan woman to the living water He was on a mission to provide. Far more important than a meal was His true “meat.” Jesus said, “*My meat is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work*” (John 4:34). While it was day, Jesus was busy “*working the works of Him who sent*” Him (John 9:4).

Accomplishing the work of the Lord should be our priority in life. Jesus left all of us a work to accomplish. Paul honored Timothy by saying, “*for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do*” (1 Corinthians 16:10). It was not what we design, but it is the Lord’s work. It is a work in which all can share, for Paul included himself with Timothy in this work. And, it is not mere theory, for it is work we are to work.

Saving souls from sin may

seem one dimensional, but it has many facets. It is a “*work of faith*”, for it springs from the word of faith which is preached and continues in pursuit of open hearts through the unwavering faith of workers (1 Thessalonians 1:3, Galatians 1:23). Once souls are initially saved, the work of helping souls reach heaven demands a careful hand. Through the gospel, God has worked into us the salvation we are to work out (Philippians 2:12-13). Therefore, each soul saved by the gospel is “*the work of God*” which we are to respect even above our liberties (Romans 14:20). Ministering to the needs of fellow Christians is a “*work of love*” which God never overlooks (Hebrews 6:10). The work of the Lord engaged through faith and love never ceases, but must “*abound*” (2 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:58).

If you are presently not involved in the various facets of the Lord’s work, ask yourself, why not? As Christians, we all should be involved in reaching out to others by *holding forth the word of life* as we live as luminar-

ies in this dark world of sin (Philippians 2:15-16). We should do our individual part in the “*increase*” and the edification of the church (Ephesians 4:16).

Martin Treptow left his small barber shop in 1917 to join the Rainbow Division in France. He was killed in action trying to carry a message between battalions. On his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf was the heading, “My Pledge”. Under it reads, “America must win this war. Therefore, I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, and I will endure. I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone.” Mr. Treptow had a deep conviction: America must win. Personal involvement ensued when he felt the outcome depended upon him alone giving his best. The personal conviction that souls must be saved (Acts 4:12), and that our congregation must increase and be edified should move us to be involved in the spiritual work of the Lord. Work as if the outcome depended upon you alone doing your best, and you will remain involved.