

Glad Tidings

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

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Personal Responsibility

(Jerry Fite)

Personal accountability implies personal responsibility. Since God will hold each of us accountable for our own deeds done in the body, He demands we learn personal responsibility while still in the body (*cf. 2 Corinthians 5:10*).

Learning implies teaching. Who or what then is to teach us personal responsibility? Are we to learn such from the “school of hard knocks”? God instructs parents to train their children in the way they should go, which demands the core lesson of personal responsibility. Especially is this so if parents bring children up in the admonition of the Lord (*cf. Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4*).

But what do we see around us? Broken marriages, absent fathers, and stressed mothers darken the societal landscape. As God’s Word is left out of lives and homes, many seek to remedy the pain with secular ideas. “*It takes a village*” mentality, while not saying parents have no personal responsibility for raising their children, advocates so many

governmental safety measures that the absent parent really does not have to feel too bad – the village will take over. Public schools and child care will go further than teaching “ABC’s”. Out of necessity, of course, they will provide a humanistic curriculum for character building. Higher taxes will be your child’s increasing revenue source, so don’t worry dead beat dads; the village has your back while decrying your behavior. We hear the President acknowledge the virtue of “*carrying your own weight*”, while ratcheting up the fear of being “*on your own*” if governmental involvement is not welcomed.

The ‘village’s’ safety net is no longer spread to assist only those who cannot help themselves, but includes those who will not help themselves. These are the times which demand a sobering look at what God says about personal responsibility.

First, personal salvation demands personal responsibility. We must submit personally to God’s conditions for salvation. *Repent ye and be baptized every*

one of you...demands personal responsibility (Acts 2:38).

“*Work out your own salvation*” is a command demanding personal responsibility (*Philippians 2:12*). Being saved, remaining saved, and accounting for one’s actions at the Judgment demand personal responsibility.

God also demands personal responsibility regarding taking care of the needs of our immediate and extended family. “*But if any provideth not for his own, and specially his own household, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever*” (*I Timothy 5:8*). Not only children, but even grandchildren should feel personally responsible for their parents’ and grandparents’ welfare in time of need. Such fulfilling of personal responsibility is “*acceptable in his sight*” (*I Timothy 5:4*). He must be watching in these difficult and stressful times!

Society is not guilty for one breaking the law, the law breaker is guilty. Learning personal responsibility at the knee of God and His guiding word is what we desperately need in our day