

Glad Tidings

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

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“For all shall know me...”

(Jerry Fite)

Jeremiah prophesied of a new covenant which came to fruition approximately 600 years later in Jesus the Christ. Jeremiah wrote of this coming covenant as being “*not according to the covenant*” God made with Israel when He “*took them by the hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt*” (*Jeremiah 31: 32, Hebrews 8:9*).

This covenant, founded upon the Law of Moses given at Mt. Sinai, was made old by establishing the new covenant founded upon the gospel of Christ (*Hebrews 8:13*). While the Law constantly pricked the heart with the consciousness of sin, the new covenant was better in that through faith in Christ God mercifully would “*remember*” one’s sins “*no more*” (*Hebrews 8:6,12; 10:14-17; Galatians 3:19-22*).

One distinguishing characteristic of the new covenant is that “*they shall not teach every man his fellow-citizen, and every man his brother, saying ‘know the Lord:’ for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest of them*” (*Hebrews 8:11*). At birth, a child

entered the covenant God made with Israel, because his or her parents were Jews. In his eighth day of life, a boy was circumcised receiving the sign of the covenant into which he was born (*Genesis 17:10-14*). Therefore, one already in a covenant relationship with God through birth or being part of a Jewish household would have to be taught the Law governing the covenant. Not so in the new covenant. One must know the Lord before entering the spiritual covenant of forgiveness of sins and holy living.

Teaching, hearing and learning must first occur before one is drawn to the Lord (*John 6: 44-45*). One cannot be saved by the Lord under the new covenant until one hears *words* whereby he or she can believe and be saved (*Romans 10:17, Acts 11:14*). All those who have been begotten again have first known the resurrected Lord through the preaching of the Gospel (*I Peter 1:23, 25*). There are no exceptions, for *from the least to the greatest* they will have already known the Lord through the gospel.

Knowing that no one enjoys the promise of God’s forgiveness under the new covenant without first knowing the Lord, we should be dedicated in teaching others the gospel of Christ. This week, we have the opportunity to invite others to hear the Word and thus know the Lord. We will meet each night through the week to present Christ to the world.

What would did Andrew do today? When he began following the Lord, he sought his brother. He said to him, “*We have found the Messiah...*” (*John 1:41*), which manifested his own belief and conviction that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Then, Andrew “*brought him unto Jesus*” (*John 1:42*).

Andrew’s brother was Peter, who would open the way of salvation in Christ through the preaching of the Gospel to both Jews and Greeks (*Acts 2, 10*). We never know what great things the next person we invite and bring to know the Lord will do!