

Glad Tidings

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

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From Within

(Jerry Fite)

God works in saving man from the inside out. It is the *implanted* word that is able to save your soul (*James 1:21*). Before the outward confession of “*Jesus as Lord*”, you must first believe the preached word “*in thy heart*” (*Romans 10:8-10*). Jesus characterized God’s growing and expanding kingdom as likened “*unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened*” (*Matthew 13:33*).

While government focuses upon changing our outward circumstances for good, God focuses His attention on changing our hearts for the better. One can live in righteousness as a Christian while being physically enslaved, poor and hungry (*cf. 1 Peter 2:18-20, 2 Corinthians 11:27*). The single focus of the heart, beaming with trust and commitment unto the Lord, empowers one to endure the difficult outward circumstances (*Ephesians 6:5-8, Philipians 4:11-13*).

All that defiles man begins from within. Jesus says, “*For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousnes, an evil eye, railing,*

pride, foolishness: all these things proceed from within, and defile the man” (*Mark 7:21-22*).

The scribes and Pharisees looked on the outside as “whited sepulchers” but Jesus knew they were filled with “uncleanness”, “hypocrisy” and “iniquity” from within (*Matthew 23:27-28*). They appear before men as righteous, but in reality, they are the opposite due to the corruption that is being allowed to work from within.

Grasping eternal life begins within man. Jesus offered the Samaritan woman living water. He said “*but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up unto eternal life*” (*John 4:14*). When man receives good news of salvation in Christ, it rises within him as a bubbling fountain unto everlasting life. It is satisfying and everlasting for he will never thirst again. Are you at peace with God from within? Are you satisfied with what Christ offers you in life? The water of life Jesus offers you should produce peace and satisfaction within you.

The Kingdom of God is within you. This is a point of contrast between kingdoms of this

world and the spiritual kingdom over which Christ rules. Jesus said, “*...the kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, ‘Lo, here! or, There!’ for lo, the kingdom of God is within you*” (*Luke 17:20-21*). “Without observation” does not mean we can never determine where God’s kingdom is, but it emphasizes that the kingdom or rule of God works within. Paul writes, “*and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body and be ye thankful*” (*Colosians 3:15*).

What is taking place within you today? Are you harboring evil thoughts while appearing righteous before men? Are you anxious and fearful of tomorrow? Allow God’s word to take root in your heart. Be convicted with its truths and submit your heart to the rule of Christ in your life. Let Jesus’ gift of the water of life satisfy you with faith, and everlasting life. Then, the evil thoughts, anxiety and fear will not be able to take root and distract you from serving the Lord. Outward living begins from within. Cleanse the inside of the cup “*first*” so the outward will be clean also (*Matthew 23:26*). Transform your life from the inside out!