

# Glad Tidings

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

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## National Reproach

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**G**od declares this universal truth: “*Righteousness exalts a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people*” (*Proverbs 14:34*). People living upright lives before God uplifts a nation. “Before God” is key, because “*Jehovah is righteous; loves righteousness: the upright shall behold His face*” (*Psalms 11:7*). Living lives that do not cause the righteous God to hide His face, implies a people are seeking to follow God’s revealed standard for righteousness. But when people fail to acknowledge God in their heart and violate His will in unlawful deeds, they bring shame upon themselves, regardless of who they are.

God cares about how we speak to one another. Filthy speech is never allowed among the righteous people of God (*Ephesians 5:4*). But in our crude world, shameful obscenities are hurled with rude intent. Forget the office one holds (*cf. Acts 23:5*). Forget who is listening, just pollute the atmosphere with corrupt speech. Your tirade may go viral. And you will be a star...no, you are shameful.

One manifests the fruit of God’s Holy Spirit when he or she engages the inner governor of “self-control” (*Galatians 5:23*). Many seem powerless to govern their passions in anger. Jesus

manifested righteous indignation, but not sinful anger (*Mark 3:5, cf. Eph. 4:26*). Losing your temper is the antithesis of self-control. Protective fuses have been shortened by COVID-19 fears and selective lockdowns. So, some explode with filthy expletives toward a mayor who is violating the rules he has burdened citizens with...and the executive does not even seem to care. Often when people have already lost their temper with deafening wrath and shameful speech, they will not hold back in implementing their fists. Verbal obscenities and bodily shoves manifest the lack of self-control. This should not be summarily dismissed with “their bubble finally burst.” It is a shameful reproach on any people.

During the summer months of 2020, we witnessed destructive uprisings across our nation. Defying the police with personal insults and deadly assaults; looting businesses and burning buildings were all done avenging injustice. It was payback time for “police brutality” and “racist capitalism.” God has so ordered that “vengeance” belongs to Him. The Righteous “give place unto the wrath of God,” instead of venting their wrath in destroying others (*Romans 12:19*).

This past week the seat of our federal government was dishonored in Washington D.C. “The

People’s House” was overrun by “the people.” Walls were scaled, windows were broken, doors were busted, and offices were desecrated. Should we just say this is what happens when voters are disenfranchised? No! A vengeful spirit taking vengeance into one’s own hands is shameful for any people.

Lying is perceived to be ok if it achieves your goals. After all, “we won” is the supreme goal. How you achieve the goal is not important. It is with God. “Shall we do evil that good will come” (*cf. Romans 3:8*)? This is always slanderous of God’s people. God will cast all liars into the eternal fires of Hell (*Revelation 21:8*). Lying is shameful to any people.

John Adams addressed the Massachusetts Militia on October 11, 1798. He declared, “We have no Government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net.” The people of America in 2020-2021, have demonstrated how true Adams’ warning of vulnerability was in 1781. Dear Christian, live accordingly to God’s righteous Word and do not be caught up in this world’s unbridled passions. Sin shames any nation of people.