

Glad Tidings

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

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The Most Important

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Our lives are molded by important things. At the end of the day, we will have accomplished the tasks we charted on our “To-Do List,” or we will have been driven to do things we did not plan to do. In either case, important things determined how our day went. Living disciplined lives, we mentally listed the duties of the day in order of “importance.” First things first; this chore needs to be done before that chore; this mission will facilitate accomplishing the next all figured in our plans for the day. If all went as planned, we probably feel good about our day. Living flexible lives, we also accomplished things. If matters were forced upon us; we could not avoid this or that; we had to take care of things we did not at the beginning of our day foresee; they still were “important” for they determined how we filled our day.

“More important” focuses our attention on comparing one thing with another. “Most important” takes our minds into the superlative. As we begin our day, let us ponder the consummate.

God must come first in our thinking. He is the creator of the heavens and the earth (*Genesis 1:1*). Jesus, the eternal Word, spoke all things into existence (*cf. Psalm 33:6; Colossians 1:16*). Without Him, nothing exists (*cf. John 1:3*;

Colossians 1:17). We would not have life if God had not “breathed into the nostrils (of the first man) the breath of life” (*Genesis 2:7*).

While the first man became a living person, he was created in the “image of God” (*Genesis 1:27*). God is a “Spirit” (*John 4:24*), and man therefore possesses a spirit or soul that comprises the “inward man” (*cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16, Hebrews 4:12*). Of all our possessions, our soul is the “most important.” Jesus put it this way: “*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul (Mark 8:36 NKJ)? There is no medium of exchange that can be offered to buy our soul back once it has been forfeited (Mark 8:37).*”

Starting with God, “Who” is most important, and realizing we through our sins have fallen short of “His glory,” we are moved to think of the good news of salvation. Realizing we are spiritually “dead” in our sins while physically “alive,” we focus on more important matters than accomplishing our “to-do-lists.” (*cf. Ephesians 2:1-5, 1 Timothy 5:6*). Feeling good about how disciplined or flexible we are is now overshadowed by “godly sorrow” for our sins. “*Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me out of the body of this death (Romans 7:23)?*” By God’s grace and through Jesus

Christ we can thank God for the good news of salvation.

But in doing so, we cannot avoid recognizing another “most important” thing: the revealed Gospel. Under the Old Law “*every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation (Hebrews 2:2-3a)?*” The “Word” was first spoken through Jesus Christ and confirmed by miracles (*Hebrews 2:3b-4*). The Gospel is God’s power to save and the infallible guide for a life of righteousness before God, our Saviour and Creator (*Romans 1:16-17*).

This week the opportunity is before us to focus on our God, men’s souls, and the Gospel in the same setting. Starting today and throughout the week we will assemble for the purpose of hearing the Gospel preached, which is designed to save precious souls. We will petition our God in prayer and praise Him in Song.

May we set our priorities on the “most important.” If so, we will pray for God’s blessings on the Gospel Meeting and for our brother Hogland, who will be proclaiming the Word. We will invite others and be in attendance every day of the Meeting! Rightly so, for the “most important” has captivated our souls!