

# Glad Tidings

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

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## Jesus: Our Measuring Rod

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When trying to work out the correct rhythm in a piece of music, a metronome is an excellent tool to use. You can measure your sense of timing to the tick-tock sound of the swinging pendulum. It is your standard. The Greek word “metron,” contained in “metronome” denotes “measuring.” The same word is used when setting before us the standard of measuring our spiritual growth in Christ. Paul says our journey to the full-grown man is “*unto the measure of the stature and fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13)*.” Christ has revealed His fullness in His word, and we are to place it before our eyes and grow accordingly to its “measure.”

To measure ourselves by ourselves, or find some sort of satisfaction in measuring ourselves against the failures of others is foolishness. As Paul declares, “*...they themselves, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:12)*.” Let us take a sobering look at how Christ lived, and measure our spiritual maturity by Him.

Jesus saw his days as limited, and filled them with doing the will of God. He said, “*We must work the works of Him that sent*

*me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4)*. Jesus overcame being tired and worn out by focusing on his days as the opportunity to be the light of the world and do His miraculous works. While we are not equipped to do miracles, we can keep in mind that our time is also limited on earth, and we should fill the days we have with doing the will of the Father. Do you look at your days as limited and fill them glorifying God, or do we, like many, assume our days are limitless and waste them away in unproductive idleness?

Jesus prayed for His enemies to be blessed instead of doing evil by getting even with them. We see Jesus hanging from the cross and praying that God would forgive his executioners and those around Him due to their ignorance (*Luke 23:34*). Peter writes that Jesus left us an example, “*who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: who when He was reviled, reviled not again, when he suffered, threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously” (1 Peter 2:22-23)*.

Think of the last frustrating moment you had when people did you wrong. How did you react? Did you get even by retaliating in

like kind? Many around you in this world would do so. But Jesus is your standard, not the world. If so, you will pray for God to bless them, following up to help them in their time of need, and commit your situation to God who will judge all men righteously (*Romans 12:14, 20*).

Jesus sacrificed Himself for the well-being of others. Husbands, are you willing to give yourself up for the well-being of your wives? No, you are not being required to climb up on a cross and die for your wife’s sins. Your Lord has already offered that sacrifice. But do you value your wife to sacrifice your time, and monetary resources while offering spiritual leadership for your wife’s well-being? Do not measure yourself by other husbands; measure yourself with the Lord’s constant example of selflessness (*Ephesians 5:25*). Do we apply Jesus’ examples of sacrifice when our brethren cry out for help? Johns says, we should. We must, if God’s love is going to continue to abide in us (*1 John 3:16*).

Let us keep Jesus as our measuring rod as we grow to maturity. Heaven demands it; the world needs to be able to observe it; and others will be greatly blessed by it!