

# Glad Tidings

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

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## Being Zealous In Truth

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Many today pursue truth, but have given up finding absolute truth. Some have stopped short of finding truth, and have settled on praising the pursuit like Clarence Darrow, who said, “*The pursuit of truth shall make your free... even if you never catch up with it.*” The contrast between man’s wisdom and God’s wisdom could not be clearer. Jesus declares in the Gospel, “*Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32)

Absolute truth comes through Jesus Christ who provides guidance in this world unto eternal life. Jesus declares, “*I am the way, the truth and the life*” (John 14:6). While the law was given through Moses, truth fully resides in Jesus Christ and has come through Christ coupled with saving grace (John 1:14,17). We find precious truth in God’s proclaimed Gospel, and all can come to the knowledge of the truth through God’s revealed Word (1 Timothy 2:4).

We therefore do not have to invent truth, or settle for ever-changing relative truth. Absolute truth can be known by all, and embraced with its blessings. We do not have to give up on knowing truth like Clarence Darrow, nor do we have to reveal our

frustrations like Pilate, who spoke disparagingly, “*What is truth*” (John 18:38).

We who abide in God’s word should be filled with zeal knowing Jesus promises that we will know the truth (cf. John 8:31). What does being zealous for Truth look like?

Being zealous for truth we will keep truth pure. The truth revealed will not be changed with additions or subtractions. Paul declares there is only one Gospel. In Paul’s day, he confronted those with dismay who were p “*a different gospel*” (Galatians 1:6). It is not another Gospel, but being different, it was a “*pervverted Gospel*” (Galatians 1:7). The inspired apostle casts a strong curse on those who are perverting the truth of the Gospel (Gal. 1:9). Such condemning “*anathema*” implies how serious revealed truth is to God, and those who are zealous for the Truth.

If we are zealous for Truth, our lives will change according to the standard of Truth. When one embraces Jesus Christ, finding the truth in Him, one must put away his or her former manner of life, which waxes corrupt after deceitful lusts. Fulfilling our desires as one pleases is Satan’s deceitful siren call for freedom. We

must put to death the practice of fulfilling sinful desires in our lives (Colossians 3:5,8), truth molds a renewed mind (Ephesians 4:23). Consequently, being molded by truth, we must “*put on the new man, that after God hath be created in righteousness and holiness of truth*” (Ephesians 4:24). Embracing God’s truth in Christ, we cannot be satisfied with, “*That’s just the way things are.*” While maybe acknowledging reality of our present condition, we must then pursue the Truth of “*the way things ought to be*” in Christ.

Being zealous in truth, we will not allow truth to depart from man’s eyes, not even for an hour. When circumcision was being demanded by some as being essential for salvation, Paul refused to have Titus circumcised. Paul “*gave place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you*” (Gal. 2:5). When Peter drew back his association with Gentiles by refusing to eat with them, Paul confronted him face to face in public. He exposed Peter as “*not walking uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel*” (Gal. 1:14). Not even a fellow apostle escaped condemnation from Paul’s zeal for truth. Keep truth pure; let its standard mold your life!