Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

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A Time To Love And Hate

(Jerry Fite)

The Spirit- inspired wise man wrote, *"For everything there is a season...a time to love, and a time to hate" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8).* This is not only true in the cycles of life, but likewise in the heart of the follower of Christ.

Satan easily deceives us if we do not have love for the truth permanently imbedded in our hearts. Paul warns us of the deceptive workings of Satan upon those who *"are perishing."* It is *"because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10).* Don't fall for the lie that your attitude toward God's Word will has nothing to do with your salvation. When the truth of God's Word is being read, heard, preached, or taught, it is the time to love the righteousness being presented.

Sincere love must be manifested in all our relationships. We all are to love God *" with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).* In addition, we all are to love *"thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27).* A "genuine" and "fervent" love is to be extended to every brother and sister in Christ *(I Peter 2:21).* All is connected. If we do not love our brother we do not love God *(cf. I John 4:20).*

Refraining from evil thoughts toward those who do us wrong, we are to bless or pray for the well-being of our enemies *(Matthew 5:44).* When time finds our enemy in need, we must rise from our prayers and extend food for his hunger and/or drink for his thirst *(Romans 12:20-21).* In so doing, we are not only overcoming evil with good, but with such active expressions of timely love, we are manifesting the gracious and merciful character of our God, and Father in heaven *(cf. Matthew 5:45).*

Love should permeate our marriages throughout our home. Husbands should value their wives with love that actively seeks their spiritual and physical well-being *(cf. Ephesians 5:25-27).* Wives should love their husbands and children, creating a genuine sense of belonging to one another *(Titus 2:4).* Such love daily manifests that you are valued in this family, and in this family we all belong. Let us live our lives to the glory of God. Let love thrive in your home.

From a single fountain, sweet and bitter water do not proceed *(James 3:11).* But from the godly heart both love and hate come forth. The Christian must not only love the truth, he or she must hate evil. "Ye that love Jehovah, hate evil..." *(Psalms 97:10).* "Let love be without hypocrisy, abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good" *(Romans 12:9).* From the same heart that loves revealed Truth the same intensity rises to hate falsehood. "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way" *(Psalms 119:104).* "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold, yea above find gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way" *(Psalms 119:127-128).*

Loving God with all the heart, there is no room for following the evil that contradicts God's will, regardless of its source. This is the point Jesus is making when he declares, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me..." *(Matthew 10:37).* Jesus says one cannot be His disciple if he "does not hate his own father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea his own life also" *(Luke 14:25-26).* Be ready. The time for love and hate can arise at any time, testing us through our dearest ties on earth.