

Good News

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“As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.”
(Proverbs 25:25)

Millions of people are hungry and thirsty to hear or receive good news. This is because their life is hard. Each day, news on the radio, etc., tells about bad and sad news. It is easy to be discouraged; because the news that gives us joy and happiness is scarce. In place of solving the problems of the world, men make conditions worse! In ancient times, looking at the world in general, King Solomon declared: “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (Eccl. 1:2). More than a thousand years later the apostle Paul said: “We know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now” (Rom. 8:22). Now, nearly two thousand years afterwards, there is much more evil on the earth! There are far more people. Paul gave us advice (or admonition) saying:

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God; having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such turn away (2 Tim 3:1-5)!

Paul wrote to Timothy saying:

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof,

for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:14-17).

We have today the sacred scriptures given by inspiration of God giving us good news by means of which we can be very encouraged while the prophecies concerning the end of the age are in the process of being fulfilled! The signs of the times indicate that the time of the return of Jesus to establish the kingdom of God is near! It is easy that he will come while we are living. If it is afterwards and we are prepared, we will be resurrected. This was the confidence or hope of Paul and the rest of the followers of Jesus. We read in I Thessalonians 4:13-18:

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The great future that God has for His people is sure! We read:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter" [Ps 44:22]. Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth

nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:35-39).

The “good news” is the best of all news! This was the message of the followers of Christ when they went into all parts of the world teaching the people. They taught that Jesus is the only begotten son of God without sin. They taught that Christ gave his life to be the substitution for the judgment of the sins of all the people in the world. They preached “repentance and forgiveness of sins.”

And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then he said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:45-47).

Someone can ask: “How is it possible that ‘forgiveness of sins’ is the best news?” It is the best because the human race is guilty of sin and is in a condition of condemnation. In this condition, one must die and lose eternal life! This condition must be removed! Without trusting in Christ as savior, there is no hope! We read concerning people of Ephesus: “At that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Eph 2:12). By means of forgiveness of sins a person can be reconciled with his Creator! In a correct relation, a relation of peace and love, a person can experience the life that is the best in the world today! And in this relationship with God, by means of the work of Christ, one can have the sure hope of receiving an immortal body at the coming of Jesus! This life will be as Christ has now; and will last eternally! We read: “Now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep . . . But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming” (I Cor. 15:20, 23).

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the

Spirit . . . If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that dwells in you (Rom. 8:1, 11).

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us . . . And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose (Rom 8:16-18, 28).

In Psalms 32:1-2 we read: “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.” *There is not a more blessed experience, more precious, or more the be desired than the privilege of having fellowship with our Heavenly Father!* The greatness of His nature in holiness, righteousness, and love is so marvelous that it is beyond our comprehension! He is unsearchable! “Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty” (Job 11:7)? “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable (Ps 145:3). “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable” (Isa 40:28). “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?’ *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever*” (Ro 11:33-36, emphasis added)!

God is immortal! He is immutable! (He cannot change to be better, because He is always the best!) He is omniscient! (His mind is perfect! His knowledge is

infinite, eternal, and complete!) He is everywhere present! He is on His throne in heaven; but is present also wherever He is working by His mighty power! His power is infinite! In Genesis 17:1 we read: “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly’” (Gen 17:1-2).

The life, the work and the sacrifice of Christ show his great love for the people of the world and for his Father. He received his great love by means of his fellowship with his Father. Concerning the love of God for the people of Israel we read in Isaiah 63:9, “In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old.” This shows the love that He had for His people. But the suffering that He endured during the dying of His blessed son was far more! Jesus is the only begotten son of God that lived in His will, glorifying Him in all that he thought and did! He was willing to be used, at the greatest cost to himself, to make salvation possible for all of humanity! This suffering and love is far more than we can comprehend!

The more that we learn to think with God, the more we will understand. Christ is able to bring us into a relationship with God in which we can experience His love similar to some of his experiences. In Luke 10:22 we read: “All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” In I Peter 3:18 we read: “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, *that he might bring us to God*, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit [of God]” (emphasis added).

From the history of millions of people who have been reconciled to God, it is very evident that *God accepted* the sacrifice of His son! And it is very clear that He *wants to forgive and receive all* who come to Him in faith and repentance asking for forgiveness. If a person is humble as a little child; if he believes as a little child, he cannot fail! He can experience the greatest and most precious gift

of God that Christ has made possible! He suffered more than any other human being in order that we might have the privilege of fellowship with God! Not only this, he has made this relationship possible for *all eternity!* And he has promised to be with us giving us victory over all opposition as we prepare for his return!

We read Christ's words in Matthew 28:18-20:

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (American Standard Bible)