

# GLAD TIDINGS

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

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## The christian cannot be hid

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**D**o you know anyone who wants to live his or her entire life without attracting the attention of anyone? We all want to be noticed by at least someone, sometime in our life. We would hate to live our entire life and come to realize that we had no impact upon anyone. At the end of our life on earth, we all would like to think we have made a difference in the life of at least someone who passed through life with us.

By God's design, the Christian lives to make an impact among those around him or her. Jesus said, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men” (Matthew 5:13). Salt has its effect of preservation and savor, by being applied and tasted. A Christian makes an impact upon the people on earth by living godly among them. Preservation of righteousness and the savor of goodness result when the Christian lives as he or she should.

The Christian is also a light unto the world (Matthew 5:14). Jesus illustrates this impact

upon the world by saying, “A city set upon a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Christians shine as light by walking as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). Following the light of the gospel, the Christian's character becomes evident before others. From his illustration, Jesus makes the following application: “Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

By submitting to the teachings of the Father through Jesus Christ, the Christian's life gives glory to its author: God. The character of proper submission must also be noticed. Paul exhorts Christians, “Do all things without murmurings and questionings: that ye may become blameless and harmless children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:14-15). Being at peace on the inside with humility and trust in God's ways, we are prepared to be seen as lights in a dark world. The question is not if we are to be seen, but will we

be seen as a blemish in this world or as needed light.

The Christian also “holds forth the word of life” to those in the world (Philippians 2:16). This demands that we be engaged and in contact with the people around us. Jesus “openly taught” in the synagogues and in the temple, where people gathered (John 18:20). Paul could defend his work and teaching before Agrippa in combating the words of an ignorant Festus by saying, “for I am persuaded that none of these things is hidden from him; for this hath not been done in a corner” (Acts 26:26). With a mind holding to the truth of the gospel, we set forth the gospel message to others as being worthy of acceptance.

As Christians of love and faith, we must not bring attention to ourselves by boasting or by harboring a desire to be praised by man (I Cor. 13:4, Matt. 6:1-1). Our good works speak unto God's glory. Are you engaged in the world manifesting good works? Good works of a Christian cannot be hid. “...there are good works that are evident; and such as are otherwise cannot be hid” (I Tim. 6:25).