

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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BEHAVIOR OF PERSONAL CONSECRATION

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In a recent article, we took note of the desire and delight our heart must first manifest towards heaven and the holy life in order to be personally consecrated unto God. Specific actions will follow the renewed mind in the area of personal consecration. This article focuses upon the behavior of personal consecration.

Being an example that causes people to glorify God will result from personal consecration. The focus and energy expended to do works pleasing unto God will allow one to be a “light” in the world full of darkness. As light is not to be hidden, “*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). Jesus also says, “*Ye are the salt of the earth...*” (Matthew 5:13). The person consecrated to the Lord will have a preserving affect for good upon those around him or her. The uplifting taste of purity issues from the consecrated follower of Jesus for all to compare in the insipid and polluted world of sin. However, if salt loses its savor, “*...it is good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden un-*

der foot of men” (Matthew 5:13). If we become lackadaisical in our personal consecration unto the Lord, we will cease to be light in the world, and salt of the earth.

If we are truly consecrated unto the Lord, every decision we make will first take into account principles for living revealed in the Gospel. When one sins against you personally, you will resist the temptation to tell others about the injustice you have suffered. You will first point out the sin to the one who sinned against you. Your decision will be from a motive for reconciliation as the Lord has revealed: “*And if thy brother sin against thee, go, show him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou has gained thy brother*” (Matthew 18:15).

“*By what authority dost thou these things...*” (Matthew 21:23), will constantly ring in our ears as we consider our actions. “By believing this and doing that, will I find it authorized in the Gospel?” “Is such belief and action abiding in the doctrine of Christ?” (2 John 10). While many in the religious world don’t take too seriously of first establishing authority from the New Testament

Scriptures for their practice, the person truly consecrated to the Lord will consider these questions, for he and she knows that to go beyond the doctrine of Christ causes one to be without the Father and the Son (2 John 9). How can one continue to be considered personally consecrated to the Lord when his unauthorized action causes him to not have God? Personal consecration will always issue into asking the demanding question, “Does the Lord authorize it?”

Personal consecration will manifest itself in one obtaining work that is righteous before God. Paul writes, “*Let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need*” (Ephesians 4:28). The one consecrated to the Lord will not just seek employment, but will do work that is characterized by the lord as “good”. We are to “*maintain good works*” or lead out in “*honest occupations*” (Titus 3:8). The personally consecrated person works in this life producing good from his labor, not just a paycheck.