

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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What I Did Right This Year

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How many times have you come to the end of the year and focused upon all that you did wrong during the year? Looking at your life with an objective eye, unwilling to gloss over your faults is commendable. Such faults serve as a catalyst for new years' resolutions. However, being objective of your year should also include the right things you did during the year.

To determine what is right, we must look at what the Lord reveals, because “*the ways of the Lord is right*” (*Hosea 14:9*). Following His prescribed ways, we can avoid the pitfall of the fool (*Proverbs 12:15*).

Those times you fit your traveling and visiting schedule around the set time for worshipping with the saints and partaking of the Lord's supper were right things you did this year. Those trips you planned making sure you were worshipping with the saints when they met on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings and Wednesday nights, manifest putting the Lord's kingdom and His righteousness first, not your convenience (*Matthew 6:33, Acts*

20:7 Hebrews 10:25).

In assembling, when you lifted the spirits of your brethren with your gracious words, and sang hymns with brethren with a heart filled with grace and thanksgiving, you were doing right things. (*Colossians 4:6, 3:16-17*).

Those times this year you suffered with those who were suffering, and rejoiced with those who were being honored, you were doing right things (*I Corinthians 12:26*). Look at what such action says about you: You have taken the time to be concerned with another's suffering circumstance, trying to realize what it must be like. You certainly are not selfish with your time or feelings. Rejoicing with your brother who is being honored, even when such honor is not being showered upon you, says you have avoided the dark side of an envious and jealous heart. Such sincere feelings of sorrowing and rejoicing are simply the ways you showed this year a unfeigned and fervent love for your brethren (*I Peter 1:22*).

Remember those times this year you thought of lost souls in a personal instead of abstract way?

It moved you to give a person close to you an instructive tract or informative sermon tape so they could learn what to do to be saved. Oh yes, I almost forgot, those times someone asked you a Bible question and you diligently searched your Bible and meekly delivered them the Bible's answer, you were definitely doing the right thing. You might have overlooked these times because they may not have ended in the soul you cared about obeying the Gospel. Regardless of their favorable or unfavorable response, you manifested the heart of Jesus, and the good manner of the servant of the Lord (*Luke 19:10, I Peter 3:15, 2 Timothy 2:24-26*).

Remember when you gave some money, or on your own gathered groceries and clothes or prepared food to help your fellow man in his or her time of need? You did some right things. (*Galatians 6:10, James 1:27*).

As you reflect on your year, include these right things you did in your assessment. Then, keep them going for the new year.