

GLAD TIDINGS

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

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One Step At A Time

Jerry Fite

These last few days have been difficult for most of us. Through the eyes of modern tracking technology we have seen hurricane Rita take direct aim on us only to drift a little east the last minute to work her mayhem and destruction. Being in the path of a “cat -4” or “cat -5” hurricane, and knowing what hurricane Katrina did a few weeks prior, many of us took seriously the warnings to evacuate. Leaving our homes, knowing we might see them the next time swept off their foundation by flood waters or reduced to rubble by one hundred mile an hour winds, we fled for our lives.

It seems like we and the rest of the five million people in our area left at the same time and turned the designated evacuation routes into virtual parking lots. Here an experience of a life time began. We each have our own story. I can tell you of my 24 hour trip to Huntsville, which is less than a hundred miles from my front door. Others very close to my heart took 27 hours to reach the same designation. I will not doubt you when you tell me of your 17 hour trip to Nacogdoches or 20 hour trip to San Antonio. What we share in common is that we saw the highway virtually three feet at a time, or one step at a time. Our journey to heaven is similar.

Heaven is the designation of safety guarded by God. Our eternal inheritance is “*reserved in heaven*” for us, and “*by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*” (1 Peter 1: 4, 5). When the grueling journey begins to spawn schools of doubt around our head, we need to remember that if we will just keep going, and refuse to run out of gas, we will make it. Our place is reserved, and God will fulfill his promise and guard it for your arrival. Will I do my part, and take each step by faith? That is the only uncertainty in the promise of heaven.

Heaven is the only alternative to certain destruction. After being awake for over 40 hours straight, preparing the house for departure and using all the tricks you can muster to stay alert in order to finish the journey, you begin to ask yourself the question, “Why am I still trying to make this trip?” You suddenly arise from your slumber enough to tell yourself, “Oh yes, I am trying to avoid a devastating hurricane!” I must keep going. If we miss Heaven, we will experience the *eternal destruction* of Hell (2 Thessalonians 1:9, Matthew 10:28). We need to remind ourselves of this when our journey in life appears pointless.

Looking back, I feel stupid

in continuing my journey northward. But, it is only because the “certain destruction” of the hurricane veered off to the east, and I returned home to a house unharmed and powered up with comfortable electricity that I feel foolish for continuing my senseless pace. If my home would have taken a direct hit from Rita yesterday, my one step at a time journey would not be so foolish today. Hell is certain destruction. It will not veer off at the last minute and miss you. You must avoid it by taking one step at a time with Jesus to the designation of Heaven.

Over the last few days, I have looked into the eyes of my fellow man and have seen shock and despair. People standing by their cars no longer able to take one step at a time due to running out of fuel; tired and hungry children testing the patience of now desperate parents; and dark thoughts being reflected in headlights as daylight vanishes will not soon be forgotten. One day the mass of humanity will be cast into *outer darkness* where there is *weeping and gnashing of teeth* (Matthew 25:30). I must now warn them, and direct them to heaven, as I continue my journey- one step at a time.