

Glad Tidings

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

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To Be Like Jesus

(Jerry Fite)

Jesus took on flesh and blood in order to die for our sins and bring to an end the devil’s power over death (*Hebrews 2:14*). In the process of living in the flesh, Jesus accomplished another goal: exemplifying how we should live.

Paul reminds those desiring to grow to maturity that their standard is “*unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*” (*Ephesians 4:13*). It is like Jesus is a “ruler” with his “marks” chiseled on our spiritual wall indicating our progress as we grow up in Christ. Unlike physical growth, which comes naturally with time, growing unto Jesus’ stature demands our deliberate attention and constant review.

To see the character of Jesus, we must come to the only source for his detailed characteristic: the New Testament. If we do not, we may be creating a Jesus in our own image, instead of seeing the complete image we are to emulate. For example, Jesus is depicted by many as one who was humble and meek. While the Gospels clearly point out these

attributes (*Matthew 11:28, 12:20, etc.*), if we think we should never be aroused to stand up forcefully against wrong doing and error, we will not be like Jesus. He forcefully cleansed the temple manifesting a zealous spirit for all to ponder (*John 2:13-17*); and did not hesitate to use words the “politically correct” would consider harsh, but in reality is accurate language to oppose leavening influences (*Matthew 23*).

This week we have the opportunity to concentrate on Jesus as our standard as we attend the nightly meetings focusing on “*Discipleship: Becoming Like Our Teacher*”. Two areas of thought will clearly appear throughout the week: Discipleship demands being as Jesus, and demands following His teaching. The services on Sunday will begin showing how we are to be like Jesus, and then into the first part of the week our speakers will show us what is necessary if we are to be true disciples. In the middle of the week we will see how Jesus conducted himself in the face of error, and close the week with Jesus’ attitude toward

sinners presented to us for emulation. The week will also be focusing upon Jesus’ teaching regarding important areas of our life.

Jesus taught much on the subject of money. His teaching will be presented so, as disciples, we can follow him. Jesus addressed the subject of marriage, divorce and remarriage. His teaching will be distinctively applied so, as disciples, we can confidently follow Him. Because of money’s seductive powers and divorce and remarriage’s emotional distraction, the grounding of disciples in Jesus’ teaching is a necessity for our time.

Hopefully, you will want to be present at every service, and be mentally prepared to take in all the teaching from God’s Word. With Jesus’ character and teaching distinctively presented, we will be able to see His true image.

May Thomas O. Chisholm’s 19th. Century prayerful song be on our heart and lips this week: “*O to be like Thee...Stamp thine on image deep on my heart.*” May this be “*my constant longing and prayer.*”