

# Glad Tidings

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

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## Loving God With The Mind

(Jerry Fite)

**A**s a new generation of Israelites were preparing to enter the Promise Land, Moses prepared their hearts. They were told to “*love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and all thy might*” (Deuteronomy 6:5). The heart here is not the blood pumping muscle in the center of your chest, but the center of your being for cognitive thought and determining will.

According to Jesus, the heart can be distinguished from the mind. With Deuteronomy 6:5 no doubt in mind, Jesus said, “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind*” (Matthew 22:37). The heart, soul and mind involve man’s will, emotion and understanding.

If we are not able to know exactly the various divisions of the heart, we can know exactly Jesus’ point: we are to love God with all of the faculties of our being. The reason we do not have to divide our heart and energy is that God is “One”. Since He is One God, we can love Him with all we have. We can and we must!

But what does it mean to love God with our mind? We usually equate love with our emotions. From an emotional perspective, we “fall in love”. We cannot help it, and it was not premeditated; we just stumbled head over heels in love. But loving God with the mind, we respond with not mere emotion, but with the knowledge and understanding of God.

To know Him as our Creator should move us to love Him. God did not merely expend immense power in bringing the world into existence, He made it habitable for man (Proverbs 8:31). God “*causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man; that he may bring forth food out of the earth*” (Psalm 104:14). God’s wisdom and power offers man a fruitful abode. Such knowledge should evoke love for God. The more we learn of the created universe, we should grow in love for God and His providential care.

Sadly, some do not want to love God with their mind. Man is without excuse, for he can

know God. The problem is, many “*refuse to have God in their knowledge. . .*” (Romans 1:28). They do not want to know God, for they would have to acknowledge one who is higher than they. Instead they worship and serve “*the creature rather than the Creator*” (Romans 1:25). When such happens, God “*gives them up unto a reprobate mind*” (Romans 1:28).

To know God as our Saviour should move us to love Him. No greater love do we know than one freely giving his life for another (cf. John 15:13). God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son, and Jesus willingly laid down his life so we could live with Him (John 3:16; 10: 11, 18). God manifested such love when we were at enmity with Him (Romans 5:8). Such thoughts draw us to Him and move us to love Him with all our being. Our eye visualizing Jesus hanging on the cross summons strong emotion, but our minds knowing such a sacrifice frees us from death, directs us in great love toward God, our Saviour. To know Him is to love Him!