

# Glad Tidings

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

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## Enduring the Evil Storm

(Jerry Fite)

**W**hen can you say a storm is evil? When it demolishes your house, or sweeps away your loved one, it is evil. It is not that weather conditions are inherently evil, or the combination of conditions, for sometimes such conditions bless us. But the evil is perceived when weather conditions combine to hurt us, and do us harm.

We live in a time when Christianity is considered evil. Not that self-control, loving others, and honesty are considered inherently evil; but the holding to certain beliefs are considered archaic and out of step with the progressive thinking of a modern world.

When people running for national public office feel comfortable to declare the Bible is “outdated”, while claiming to be a “humanist” at heart, you know where they think the country is philosophically. When politicians publicly equate “deep-seated cultural codes” and “structural biases” with “religious beliefs”, saying all “must change”; you know what is being considered evil or harmful to progressive thinking.

The fact that anti-religious and anti-Christian voices seem to dominate presently, we should not think something new is occurring. When Christianity began, Christ and his followers were considered “evil”.

Jesus was charged before Pilate as an “evil doer” (*John 18:30*). Paul was imprisoned as a “malefactor” because He was preaching the truth of the Gospel (*2 Timothy 2:9*). Jesus prepared his followers for the times when “they cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake” (*Luke 6:22*). Being cast out as evil is the impetus for taking away your possessions (*Hebrews 10:34*), your livelihood (*Revelation 13:17*) and even your life (*Revelation 2:10*). While Christianity was an evil storm to some, threatening their way of life, the Christian must face their own evil storm of persecution (*2 Timothy 3:12*).

To remain in the doctrine of Christ is essential. To not abide, but go onward means we do not have God (*2 John 9*).

Progressive steps without God is not good progress, and out of the question for Christians. So how do Christians endure the storm of evil when it hits them?

Paul encourages the young and possibly timid Timothy by instructing him how to suffer through his hardships in preaching the Gospel. All should take note, for these truths should also strengthen us as we suffer through the storm as Christians.

First, “Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David...” (*2 Timothy 2:8*). Jesus is alive, and is presently ruling in the Kingdom as the promised seed of David (*Luke 1:31-33*, *Acts 2: 29-30*). The world may see Christ’s beliefs as “dead”. But remember, He lives and rules over an eternal kingdom. God’s messengers may be jailed, but “the word of God is not bound” (*2 Timothy 2:9*). Keep teaching!

Hold to these faithful truths: “For if we died with Him, we shall live with Him: if we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we shall deny Him, He also will deny us: if we are faithless, He abideth faithful; for He cannot deny Himself” (*2 Timothy 11-13*). God is fixed. He cannot deny Himself, so don’t deny Him and His teaching. God is faithful and sets before us eternal life so we can remain strong and endure our evil storm. We won’t give in! We won’t back down!