

Glad Tidings

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

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A New Mind For A New Year

(Jerry Fite)

Are you tired of living like the world? Are you fed up with feeling empty? Is your soul crying out for change that makes you better? Then, take a moment and think on the following exhortation: “*and be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” (Romans 12:2).

If we are to continue in this body, we must remain in this world and continue to intermingle with our fellow man. Being “fashioned” by the world’s wisdom and mores is a constant danger. God does not point us to some uninhabited mountain or deserted island to avoid the world’s influence. The divine antidote is to renew the mind. Being “transformed” by the renewing of the inward man is God’s prescription for avoiding being “fashioned” by worldly thinking and outward circumstances.

The transformation for the better begins with a new kind of thinking. We start with desiring to do God’s will, and seek to please Him. The transformation will result in proving what is the “acceptable. . . will of God”. So,

the transformation must begin here. This was certainly the core thought in Paul’s mind. Regardless if he remained in the body, or found himself at home with the Lord, his aim was “*to be well-pleasing unto Him*” (2 Corinthians 5:9). Good transformation begins early when children begin life desiring to do that which “*pleases the Lord.*” Such a godly motive will result in them “*obeying their parents*” (Colossians 3:20). It is proven over and over again, whether in the home or in our public dealings, that doing what pleases God will in the end be the very thing that is beneficial to man.

Pleasing God will result in doing “good”. It takes a different mindset to do good to one’s enemy. But if we seek God’s will, we will petition God’s blessings for our enemy, instead of cursing him. We will provide for our enemy’s present need, instead of gloating in his misfortune. The renewed mind focuses upon overcoming evil with good, instead of being overcome with evil (Romans 12:14-21).

One of this world’s captivating molds is following the path of least resistance. If you want it, buy it. If it feels good, do it. Do

not deprive yourself of any pleasure seems to be this world’s mantra. Desiring to please God will focus our attention upon “*self-control.*” Such inward discipline manifests God’s Spirit ruling within us (Galatians 5:23). God teaches us to keep our bodies pure from all sexual immorality. While the world “gives in” and rationalizes, the renewed mind “refrains” and glorifies God (1 Corinthians 6:12-20). Self-control guards not only our desires and appetites but our speech as well (James 3:1-12). Good things should come from our mouths reflecting the renewed mind (Matthew 12:34-35). Through the restraining doors of self-control comes blessing, instead of cursing. Allowing our speech to reflect a bad day might be the easy way, but the renewed self-disciplined mind will guard the tongue from such outbursts of frustration.

The renewed mind of pleasing God is perfect or complete. There is no room for any additional philosophy, nor need for it. God instructs us in all relationships. Walking in God’s way, we are better, and man is blessed. May we begin a new year and a new decade with a renewed mind. Good transformation awaits.