

Is There Any Good News Anymore??

Because of the Pandemic, our “daily” newspaper is now being delivered twice a week — on Sundays and Wednesdays. This a.m. (Wednesday) I tried to mentally digest much of the news contained in the latest issue. It was so depressing! Pictures of places shut down, articles concerning people who are out of work, the latest death toll of those who succumbed to this terrible virus, companies going out of business, etc., etc., is so depressing. But, depressing as it is, that which is recorded in the newspaper is no more depressing than the daily, or the nightly news on the television. We are being warned of a great depression, as our leaders continue to add trillions of dollars to the national debt, much of which will have to be passed on to succeeding generations; we are almost eye-witnesses of the great divide in Congress, we are told of hostility among nations, and the possibility of military conflict, etc., etc., etc. We wonder, “Is there any good news anymore?”

The answer is Yes! Yes! Yes! Even with regards to COVID-19, we are now learning that the overall death rate is far lower than originally predicted. Then, too, this pandemic in many instances is bringing out the best in people. For example, I was intrigued to read of some healthy young people volunteering to get the COVID-19 virus in order to help enable researchers develop a “novel coronavirus vaccine,” and of the volunteers in various cities building public water fountains to enable homeless people to wash their hands as an aid to avoid becoming victims of this dreaded virus. In fact, if you look for it, there are many reports of good deeds performed by both the young and the old in order to assist those who, in various ways have been victimized during this time period. For that matter, it has been observed that “pestilence, war, famine, and death are all on the decline” during this period in human history.

But the *real* good news is this! **God loves you** (John 3:16)! And because of His great love, He sent “*His only Begotten Son*” into this world to live among men, suffer, bleed, and die on that cruel cross to pay **our** sin debt (Rom. 3:23-25). Because of His death, burial, and resurrection we have “*the Gospel*” (I Cor. 15:1-4), which is God’s “*power*” to save (Rom. 1:16). In fact, the word “*Gospel*” (from *euangelion*, Greek) is defined as “the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ...” (W.E.Vine, **Expository of Biblical Words**). And the “*gospel*” is not intended for only a select few, but **for all**! Jesus said “*Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned*” (Mark 16:15-16). All who obey the gospel receive “*the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:47), are “*added to the church*” (Acts 2:47), which is the “*one body*” of which Jesus is the “*Savior*” (Eph. 5:23). Having been “*baptized into Christ*,” they have “*put on Christ*” (Gal. 3:27), “*in*” whom they are blessed “*with every spiritual blessing*” (Eph. 1:3). They live “*in hope of eternal life*” (Tit 1:2), and if they are faithful “*unto death*” they receive that “*crown of life*” (Rev. 2:10), in that heavenly home where all tears have been wiped from their eyes, and in which “*there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying,...no more pain*,” and where “*the former things have passed away*” (Rev. 21:3). That, friend, is the very essence of **good news**, and it is available to every accountable person on the face of the earth!

But the good news of gospel leads us to two important observations: (1) The gospel must be **obeyed**, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, and (2) this good news must be **shared** with others (Mark 16:15). And this leads us to two important questions: (1) Have you obeyed the gospel, and (2) If you have obeyed the gospel, are you telling others about Jesus Christ and His saving gospel?

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