

Good News

umm, Good News. What's that? I feel pain every time I read the news, and it doesn't matter which network. It's all bad. In any given day, a news feed will pummel you with hundreds of negative items, and most are really negative. In fact, it seems to have gotten so bad that much of the content is too horrible to digest. It's almost impossible to imagine things that are that bad actually taking place. Don't you think it's about time for some good news?! I do. Let's do it. Let's get some good news from God!

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. Prov 25:25

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I've always loved this verse. Cold water feels sooo when good vou're thirsty. We've all been really thirsty some time, and, oh, how good that water tasted on a hot day. What a relief it was. Some people are thirsty every day, and every time they take a long cool drink, they are greatly relieved. Good news from God's Word will do the same, and even more to the soul of man if he takes the time to drink of it. Imagine that!

For my people have committed Published by the Richards two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Jer 2:13

Only reading the daily pottage of worldly news seems akin to forsaking the fountain of living waters. The results would be the same. If you only feed on worldly reports of death, murder, despair, lack and so forth, this information is really going to take its toll on you. It'll be just like not having God's Word in your heart. There will be pain, sadness, and lots of defeat. God calls this kind of forsaking "evil." What do you call it?

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O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters. Jer 17:13

"Ashamed" means, "disappointed in your expectations." Do you have a lot of disappointment in your life? If you do, what kind of news are you feeding on? News can make or break you. It can always fill you up, but if it's filling you up with the wrong stuff, your "news" digestion system's going to be all messed up. Get rid of disappointment by feeding on the good *news!* People who walk away from God's Word literally walk into the world's newsrooms. They become worldly people, saturated with bad news. Worldly people are always disappointed.

The fountain of living waters originates from God. He makes the water. He causes it to flow. He gives it its spiritual qualities. He caused His living water to have the power to quench thirsts. It's wonderful, it tastes great, it is forever available, and you should be drinking it every day. Good news is living water, good news from God's Word of course.

Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him. How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto

her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her. Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4: 6-14

Jesus told the woman at the well that living waters spring up to eternal life. That's the best news I could have ever received. *When* Page 2

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you drink from the well of Jesus Christ, you shall never thirst again. That's living water and that's how permanent eternal life is. Jesus told the woman that she should have asked for living water, but this woman didn't even know who Jesus was. She was very polite, but she still didn't get it. Jesus taught us here that eternal life and living waters are the same.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:38

You have to believe God's Word in order to receive eternal life. You have to believe on Jesus Christ. When you do, Jesus tells us that rivers of living water shall flow out of our bellies. Oh man! That's got me interested. I've already taught you that Living Waters come from God. Jesus Christ makes them available to

you when you receive eternal life. Then those living waters are in the depth of your soul, your belly, and they are designed to flow, flow, flow. In our foundational class on biblical principles, I teach you that this refers to the manifestation of the gift of holy spirit. When you have eternal life, you have this wonderful gift, and with this gift you can speak in tongues and operate eight other manifestations listed in 1 Corinthians 12. That pretty good news, isn't it? I'd say it is. God's good news centers on eternal life, His gift to you of holy spirit, and the nine manifestations of that gift. Take a Christian who operates the gift. This person can become the source of great news every day with all the signs, miracles and wonders he or she produces. We need good news today, really good news.

Earlier, in Proverbs 25, we

learned, "so is good news from a far country." The furthest country I know of is "heaven." That's right. That's where God and Jesus Christ live today. Our heavenly news of eternal life, God's gift of holy spirit and the manifestations of that gift are the greatest news you'll ever receive from so far away. Any other news may be great, but it will all be related to your eternal life. One day, you'll be in that "far country." You'll be at the source of the greatest news of all time. Let's start renewing our minds to good news now. Why wait until then? It just doesn't make any sense. Let's fill our minds up with God's Word, refusing to contaminate them with anything less. Doing so will remove your disappointments and make you feel like you're already in heaven?

God Bless You! Jerry D. Brown