

**BE PREPARED**

# BE PREPARED

- Scout Motto - “Be Prepared”
  - always be in a state of readiness in mind and body to do their duty
- Early church (1<sup>st</sup> 50 years or so) – lived in a state of readiness (They believed return of Jesus was imminent).

# BE PREPARED

- “You should dig your well before you are thirsty” – Chinese proverb.
  - prepare ahead of time, before the need arises.
- Parable of the ten virgins/bridesmaids (Mt 25;1-12).

# Why Do We Need To Be Prepared

- Judgment day
- Tribulations
- Temptations
- Preach the Word/Defend the faith

# 1. Day of Judgment

- In which the world will be judged.

Act 17;30-31 – “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

- We will all stand before Christ.

Rom 14;10, 12

v10 – “...For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.”

v12 – “So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

- Day of Salvation for some, condemnation for others.

(Mt 25;34, 41)

- Day and hour unknown.

Mt 24;36 – “No one knows about that day or hour; not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

2 Pet 3;10 – “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.”

## 2. Periods of Tribulation

- Christian life not always easy

Act 14;22 – “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom.”

2 Tim 3;12 – “In fact, everyone who wants to have a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

# 3. Times of Temptation

- Christian life fraught with temptations.
  - Satan is looking for every opportunity to entice us.  
1 Pet 5;8 “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion waiting for someone to devour.”
  - Our fleshly desires.  
Jas 1;14 “But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”
- Temptations should not be taken lightly.
  - We can become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.  
Heb 3;13 “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

# 4. Preach the Word/Defend the Faith

- Preach the Word

2 Tim 4:2 “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.”

- Defend the faith

1 Pet 3:15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

## False statements:

- The bible is full of inaccuracies and inconsistencies.
- There are no absolute truths.
- Tolerance means accepting all lifestyles as valid.
- All religions say the same things.

# Preparing For Judgment

- Resources God has provided

- His Son as an atonement for sin.

1 Jn 4;10 “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

- What must we do?

- Respond to the Gospel.

Act 2;38 “Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

- Remain faithful in our devotion and service

Rev 2;10 “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

# Preparing For Tribulations

Resources God has provided

- a. Peace that only Christ can offer.
- b. Strength found only in Christ.
- c. Brethren to comfort us

# Preparing For Tribulations

## a. Peace that only Christ can offer.

-Peace that the world cannot provide.

Jn 14;27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

- Peace that guards your hearts and minds.

Phil 4;7 “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

## What must we do?

- Fervent prayer

Phil 4;6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

- Peace found only in a life given over to Christ (Mt 6;33).

# Preparing For Tribulations

## b. Strength found only in Christ.

- Strength that provides us with patience, longsuffering & joy  
Col 1:11 “... being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father.”

What must we do?

- Develop our strength –by putting on the armor of God (Eph 6;13-18)

# Preparing For Tribulations

c. Brethren to comfort us in our trials.

- Brethren who comfort us with words of hope and encouragement.

1 Th 5;11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

What must we do?

- Ministering to one another, assembling together, exhorting and loving one another (Heb 10;24-25, 13;1).

# Preparing For Temptations

- Resources God has provided.
  - a. His Providence in times of temptation.
  - b. Holy Spirit to help us overcome temptation.
  - c. The church to support us.

# Preparing For Temptations

## a. His Providence in times of temptation.

1 Cor 10;13 “And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

- God will limit our temptations.
- God will provide a way out.

## What must we do?

- Pray that we enter not into temptation.

Mt 6;13 “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Mt 26;41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

# Preparing For Temptations

## b. Holy Spirit to help us overcome temptation.

Eph 3;16 “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”

Gal 5;22-23 “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.”

## What must we do?

- Be willing to be guided by the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Jn 14;26 “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

- Avoid grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit (Eph 4;30, 1Th 5;19).

# Preparing For Temptations

c. The church to support us.

- Establish and strengthen relations with brethren.

# Preparing to Preach the Word/ Defend the Faith

- Resources God has provided
  - a. Bible.
  - b. Living a God centered life.

# Preparing to Preach the Word

## a. Bible

2 Tim 3;16-17 “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

What must we do?

- Diligently study the Bible

# Preparing to Preach the Word

## b. Living a God centered life.

Mt 5;16 “ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.”