

Be Prepared 13th September 2026

Be prepared the motto for the boy scouts.

However it should be our motto also. Be prepared don't leave things to the last minute.

First the natural.

Our cows need extra feeds as there is not enough grass to fully feed alone. If the tractor or the feed bucket breaks down the cows go hungry and milk drops. If we did nothing I am sure Murphy's law would prevail and the breakdown would occur in the weekend or on a public holiday. So; to be sure rather than sorry we prepare we have a second tractor and a second feed bucket. We don't wait for an emergency we are prepared. A famine for the cows means a famine in our bank account.

Makes me think Of Pam's sermon; the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins. 5 were prepared 5 were not prepared. They waited till the last minute and missed out. What did Jesus say about this in

Mathew 25; 13

"So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return."

Again, in the natural we get weather warnings. Some are immediate; flash flooding so we move the stock to higher ground. However, some are longer term e.g. El Nino. Those long-term forecasts may happen and may not, We don't take a chance. We prepare for the worst, don't panic and pray for the best. We still listen to the warnings. If we do not take natural warnings lightly how much more weight should we give to God's warnings

What do we have to prepare for in the spiritual realm? Warnings and tasks;

There are many warnings in the Bible which we need to heed and prepare for. Again, no panic.

Why should we prepare? There are consequences for all our actions. Lamb's book of life etc. If God tells us to be aware then we should be. No ifs or buts or maybes.

Noah was warned of a flood. A phenomenon he would have had no understanding of but he obeyed; built the ark over a long period of time, rejected the scorn of the unbelievers and carried on. He and his family were saved.

Hebrews 11;7 It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

Again, Lot was warned to get out of his hometown Sodom and Gomorrah and don't look back. He obeyed heeded the warning and was saved. His wife did not listen, and she did not escape the wrath of God.

The NT contains many warnings from God; The day of wrath it will come

The day of the Lord is coming; judgement is coming; God's wrath is coming. He has said so.

We need to know the times and the seasons and be prepared. As time is getting shorter, we need to be prepared to share the Good News with others.

Just as we know summer is coming and maybe drought and winter is coming maybe flooding and frosts, so we prepare in the natural. So spiritually we need to be prepared.

God's warnings don't always give a specific day or hour. For example, Christ's return but we are told to recognise the seasons. Like in the natural.

Luke 12:35-40

⁵ "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. ³⁷ The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! ³⁸ He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn.^[a] But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

³⁹ "Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ **You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."**

The Bible warns us what is to come but fear not, look up

Luke 21:25-28

And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

The Bible also tells us to be prepared to resist the evil one, and be aware of his tricks so we don't fall into temptation. Need to be well grounded so we do not fall prey to deception Math. 24:24

1 Peter 5: 5 -11

Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

*"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."*

⁶ *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

⁸ *Be ^[c]sober, be ^[d]vigilant; ^[e]because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But ^[f]may the God of all grace, who called ^[g]us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, ^[h]perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Not only be prepared for the wrath to come and the wiles of the evil one but we need to be prepared to talk those around us both fellow Christians to encourage and to give hope to those outside of God's grace.

2 Tim 4; 1 -5

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ²Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favourable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. ³For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

⁵But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

1 Peter 3; 15 -17

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.^[a] Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

WE must be prepared for the work God has ordained for us and in preparation and obedience there is great reward

Luke 12; 47 – 48 *"And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. ⁴⁸ But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.*

2 Timothy 2; 20 -21

In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹ If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honourable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

Tho we are given warnings we should not stop doing what God has given us to do. (looking after family or work etc). Whether or when things will happen we must still be prepared. Occupy till I come. Like the parable of the talents

Mark 13; 32-34

"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. ³³ And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert^[1]!

Or in Luke it says do business till I come back

Peter shared about tribulation and overcoming, so how do we prepare?

Eph. 6 10-18 NLT

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we^[d] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armour of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.^[e] ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.^[f] ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.^[g]

We are to be ready to preach the word for encouragement and evangelism

Be strong in the Word, steadfast in faith, be filled with the Holy Spirit, continually in fellowship, praying, praise and worship with a heart full of thanksgiving

We have a glorious future and a hope ahead of us if we persevere to the end.

2 Peter 3;11-13

Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹² looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. ¹³ But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

2 Timothy 3; 16 – 17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Jude 20-21

But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit,^[g] ²¹ and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

If we are overcomers and if we are prepared then;

Revelation 21; 3-7

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.^[a] ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

1 Thessalonians 5; 1-24

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