

# Being Prepared

**Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-15**

## Introduction:

1. **Prepared** – for a test in school, for a test for a drivers permit or license, for a test to pass some professional exam or just being prepared for a hard day's work.
2. We all think that we must be prepared (*hopefully*) – for some that seem as if big mountains, such as a final test that you are not prepared for too small things that don't matter to a *'hill of beans*, but we are hopefully thinking that we must be prepared no matter how large or small the job ahead of us.
3. Being prepared requires **preparation** (*The state of having been made ready beforehand; readiness*) **realizing the time** that the event is to happen and **being encouraged** along the way to excel in event.
4. This morning we are going to look at some event that **IS GOING** to happen someday. This event is the **return of Jesus Christ** signifying the end to the world that we know that is called earth and all the heavens.

One of the biggest questions that can be asked of as Christians is the following; **“How Can We Be Prepared?”** the Apostle Paul addresses this in the fifth chapter of first Thessalonians.

## I. By Watchfulness (v2-3)

A. Being aware of the return of Jesus Christ (*being prepared*).

1. Someday, **He will return** when people least expect it.
  - a. **Sudden** – as in the days of Noah when the flood came upon the world.
  - b. **Just like any other day** – eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage.
  - c. **In its finality – the end – no more chances – the verdict is in** (awaiting the judgment sentencing from the Great Judge of the Universe – **Jesus Christ**) – **no more chance to repent and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ**, “*For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?*” – 1 Peter 4:17 – **no chance to name Jesus as Lord and Savior**, “*Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?*” – Luke 6:46 – **the separation for all of eternity** – “*These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*” – Matthew 25:46.
2. That we must be ready at all times – for we do not know what tomorrow brings – our life is just as a vapor coming off of a boiling tea kettle – here than gone – so is our life here on earth.

B. Being vigilant over oneself

1. Keeping oneself Unspotted from the world (**OUR FOCUS in being prepared**)
2. Keeping our eyes upon Jesus Christ (**OUR FOCUS in being prepared**)
3. Focusing upon heaven (**OUR FOCUS in being prepared**)
4. Focusing upon the Great Promises of God (**OUR FOCUS in being prepared**)

- C. Being constantly aware of what is going on around you at all times.
  - 1. If it is good and right, then do it, *“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”* Galatians 6:10
    - a. Do well to all, especially to the household of faith.
    - b. Spreading the seeds of the kingdom to the world – praying that God will give the increase to a dear soul in dire need of a savior (*for all have sinned and have come short of the Glory of God* – Romans 3:23).
  - 2. If it is bad for the soul, abstain and run from it, no matter what it is, *“abstain from every form of evil”* 1 Thessalonians 5:22 – this is a command and not a suggestion.

## II. By Staying In The Light (v4-10)

- A. The light of our Glorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, *“If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays.”* – Luke 11:36.
  - 1. That He is our guide – that we are to be as little children, letting Him guide the way through the wilderness ‘*so to speak*’ here on earth – walking with Him in humility.
  - 2. The light of Jesus Christ that is displayed in the New Testament as to how we are to walk, for Jesus said, *“watch out that the light in you is not darkness.”* – Luke 11:35
- B. The light that exposes sin
  - 1. The light that exposes our sin against our Great God.
  - 2. The light that shows us how to resist the temptations of sin.
- C. The light that exposes evil.
  - 1. Evil opposes all that is good.
  - 2. Being aware that there is evil around us all of the time but, we do not need to be engulfed in it.
- D. The light that shines upon the heart of the Christian.
  - 1. For what our hearts are, so are we.
  - 2. The goodness of God that is given to us, that we may meditate upon and act upon, keeping spiritual things in the forefront of our lives at all times.
- E. The light that allows one to see the Great Manifold Wonders of our Great God in the evidences that He has left with us – *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”* – **Romans 1:20**

## III. By Encouragement (v11-15)

- A. By building one another up – encouraging one another (v11)
  - 1. Not to give up because the Apostle Paul has told us in Galatians 6:9 *“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”*
  - 2. To keep our focus upon heaven, even when everything seems to be crashing down around us.

- B. By encouraging those who diligently labor among you.
- C. By admonishing the unruly.
  - 1. To straighten them out
  - 2. To keep them on the narrow road to heaven.
- D. By encouraging the fainthearted.
  - 1. To not lose their faith
  - 2. To not lose their hope
  - 3. To not lose their salvation in the only One who can save.
- E. By helping the weak.
- F. By being patient with everyone.
- G. By not repaying evil for evil.
- H. By seeking the good in all people.

### **Conclusion:**

1. The question that was asked at the beginning was, “*How can we be prepared?*” – the answer’s are (1) being **watchful** (vigilant) – means that you are prepared by watching (*likened as a mother who looks out the window awaiting her dear son to return from the war*); (2) by **remaining in the Light** – meaning remaining in Jesus Christ until the end and (3) by **encouraging** others or having others encourage you to remain faithful, watchful and ever prepared because someday Jesus Christ will return when a person least’s expects His return.
2. The question I leave you with; “*Are you **prepared** to meet Jesus Christ at the judgment seat for His final verdict?*”
3. We can be prepared, if we are a Christian and have remained faithful to Him to the end. If not a Christian, then now is the day of salvation – do not put it off – because Jesus is returning someday – it could be tonight or tomorrow or next week, month or year – man does not know but, we can be **VERY ASSURED** that He **WILL RETURN**. *Are you ready?*