

Be Ready

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Luke 12:35-40

We spend our lives getting ready for what is coming in the future. This includes getting ready and being ready for certain things that are of a spiritual nature. To be ready, we must (1) know what needs to be done, (2) prepare ourselves to do what needs to be done, and (3) be willing to do what we have prepared ourselves to do. What are we to be ready to do in our service to God?

Ready for Every Good Deed (Titus 3:1)

- The good deeds we are to do are defined in God's word (2 Timothy 3:16-17) – we cannot do whatever we want to do and call it a good deed (Matthew 7:21-23)
- How do we prepare to do every good deed? – study to know what God wants us to do (2 Timothy 2:15); give up the things that prevent us from doing good (Romans 6:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:13)
- We must be willing to do good – not just know what is right but refuse to do it (James 4:17)

Ready to Share (1 Timothy 6:18)

- This instruction was to the rich, but those who are not rich can also fulfill this command (2 Corinthians 8:1-4) – we are to take advantage of opportunities to help others (Galatians 6:10)
- How do we prepare to share with others? – first give ourselves to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:5); recognize that our blessings come from Him (2 Corinthians 9:8; James 1:17); work to have something to share (Ephesians 4:28)
- We must be willing to share – not to be done grudgingly (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Ready to Give an Answer (1 Peter 3:15)

- This instruction applies to every Christian – we all have a hope of heaven through the sacrifice of Christ and our obedience to Him (1 Peter 1:3-4)
- How do we prepare to give an answer? – study the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15); learn how to answer (1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:15); learn what questions to avoid (Titus 3:9)
- We must be willing to give an answer – not afraid to speak up (Acts 18:9)

Ready to Meet the Lord (Luke 12:40)

- This was part of the parables spoken by Jesus (Luke 12:35-48) – someday the Lord will return in judgment and we must be ready (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6)

- How do we prepare to meet the Lord? – be busy doing what God expects of us (Luke 12:37; cf. Hebrews 5:9); those who are not Christians must become Christians (Acts 2:38); those who are Christians must continue to walk in the light (1 John 1:7)

Conclusion

- Many things in life require us to be ready – the same is true in our spiritual lives
- Part of being ready is being willing to do what we prepare to do – otherwise we fail to do it; we may fail to do good deeds, share with others, and give an answer; but the last point was different; we will not fail to meet the Lord, we just might not be ready
- Let's make sure we're ready to meet the Lord – obey Him and continue to do His will (cf. 1 John 2:28-29)