

PRIORITY OF PREPARATION!



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We all have priorities, but they are not always on the *right* things nor in the *correct* order. The *length* of eternity cannot be computed and the *value* of Paradise cannot really be understood until God enables our spiritual vision to see the *priority of preparation!*

Being prepared spiritually by God means being in, and staying in, a *learning* position of trust on Him every moment for everything. It means being open to conviction about any attitude, activity, or decision we made that could be outside His will and Word. Being willing to *learn* is required by God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “*It is by grace that you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves. It is God’s gift and is not on the ground of merit—so that it may be impossible for any one to boast.*” Our preparation for Heaven can only be accomplished on *earth*. Romans 4:16 “*Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace.*” Faith in the power of God enables His *grace* to be given.

Every day there is some *thing*; some *interest*; or some *matter* that has our *attention*, but first priority must be on having a right *attitude* toward God, and keeping a position of *trust* on His power through the Blood of the Cross. Paradise is a *gift* to believers and received by *faith* in God.

Jesus was teaching a crowd Luke 12—about not having laid-up money to depend on; keeping their faith centered on *Him*; not worrying about

the next *day*; and being aware of possible *deceit*. He said that the true *gospel* separates *true* believers from *false* ones. He wanted them to be ready for His return by allowing His Father to *prepare* them.

Jesus mentioned some people who were killed in a serious accident Luke 13:2-5, “*Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*”

Every difficult situation is an opportunity to be shown *why* it was met; or *why* we were not protected because if we are under the Blood of Christ, we *should* have protection. When we sincerely *repent*, *forsake* our sins, and *accept* the forgiveness of God 1 John 1:9, we can *claim* the divine protection He promises, and be *confident* of receiving it.

We cannot be wrong about the *requirement* for Heaven. Life here is very *short*—but the next is *endless*—it cannot be measured! James 4:14 “*For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away*”—but our *soul* continues forever in one of two places—the one of *intense torment* and the other of *extreme enjoyment*—both never end! Our *preparation for Paradise* is top priority!

All our energy and interest must be on maintaining a *position of trust* on the Atonement Blood of Christ to be delivered from sin, self, and Satan. The only way to be *ready* is to be *forgiven* of rebellion. The *condition* for salvation is *faith* in the Blood of Jesus. Romans 4:16 “*It is of faith, that it might be by grace*”—the acting “*faith of Abraham.*”

God created a beautiful *world*, but the glory of Heaven is far greater—where we *worship* God continually! Revelation 21:27 “*There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles [unclean; impure], or causes an abomination [idolatry] or a lie [deceitful], but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.*” Living forever in God’s kingdom is *top priority*—we must be *sure* we are ready for it.

Not being ready—by *not* trusting God in faith—results in the *worst fate* possible. It is where Revelation 14:11 “*The smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.*” It is awful to *think* about such a horrible fate—but Jesus *warned* that most people go there, because they will *not* repent, and will *not* trust Him for anything in this life. It is where *billions* will be forever, if they do not *listen* and allow God to *prepare* them—how to put their *faith* in Him.

This life is the only chance we have to *live by faith* and be *prepared by God*. We began life in *rebellion* and *heading* for the flames—that makes being prepared *here* top *priority* over everything else. If we have truly given our life to God, and we do *not* compromise our position of trust on the Blood of Christ, we will be ready.

The one requirement is—John 6:29 “*That ye believe on him whom he hath sent*”—which is a believing faith in the Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Many *profess* to accept Christ but may not show spiritual *fruit* of believing faith in Him. A statement of *faith* must be linked to a walk *by faith*—on the atoning Blood of Christ for our faith to be *valid* faith.

Being *prepared* by God, is being willing to trust Him in faith for divine healing; for each day’s supplies; to have a forgiving heart—and for every other issue—the home; at work; training children; and our relationship with others—if

we are offended in some way. God *helps* us forgive immediately.

No one can be *preached* into Heaven. What we believe to be the *standard* of saving faith, is the standard we will *live up to*. If we think we can be saved by *saying* we believe, but not trusting God for issues in this life, then we will just *say it* and not *live it*. But being prepared by God means being James 1:22 “*Doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*”

This life is so short that we cannot *waste* time in allowing God to prepare us for eternity, by meeting *things* and *people* and *circumstances* according to His Word. It is keeping our trust on the Lord Jesus through every trial—calling on Him to help us get thru. James 1:12 “*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life.*”

Anyone who has not allowed God to *prepare* them will land in the flames with no way of ever getting out. That is so horrible, but we will have no one to blame but ourselves, because there are warnings all through the Bible. Matthew 7:15 “*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*” Matthew 24:4 “*Watch out that no one deceives you.*”

Only eight people had faith in God at the time of the Flood—and the *next* time will be like *that* time. People were living as usual Luke 17:27 “*Until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.*” It happened again Luke 17:29 “*The same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*”

Top priority is being *prepared* by God. Jesus said Luke 17:30 “*It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.*” Only eight in the world and three in two cities were ready! We *must* know the truth about this; we *cannot* be wrong, because

those who are ready will be very few—and there is no reversing that fate once it is met!

A woman wanted legal rights, but a judge did not care Luke 18. She had no *influence* and the judge had no *interest* to help—but because of her *persistence*, this devil-controlled judge gave what she needed. Jesus then said, “*Listen to what the unjust judge says*” Luke 18:5, “*I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.*”

If the woman received what she needed from a worldly judge who did *not* love her, then we could receive many times *more* from our heavenly Father who *does* love us. Our priority is Paradise—and God will prepare us if we have really *given* our life to Him, and have *persevered* in trusting God—Luke 18:8 “*He will see that they get justice, and quickly.*”

Jesus asked, “*When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?*” The world has rejected the *Word* of God, and ignores the *Son* of God. Very few repent of sins and even less will give up idols. Matthew 7:13 “*Go ye in through the strait gate, because wide is the gate, and broad the way that is leading to the destruction, and many are those going in through it.*”

A true and heart-felt repentance is vitally important! Luke 18:13 “*And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*” He *repented* and *confessed* his sins in deep humility, so 14 “*This one went down declared righteous, to his house, rather than that one.*”

We are justified *only* by a believing *faith* in the *Blood* of Christ—Romans 5:1-2 “*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.*”

We are *not* home yet, but we *can* be and it is promised if we will *believe* and *persist* in faith.

“*It is the gift of God*” Ephesians 2:8, received by *grace* through a believing *faith* on what Jesus *did* for us on the cross. If we really *believe* that Jesus *paid* for our sins by His sacrifice, then our life will *show* it and give evidence that we *do* believe.

Top priority each day is that God enable us to extend *forgiveness* to others; to place *wrongs* in the past; to store no money for the future; to give donations when asked; and if we lack any need or are oppressed in body, to ask for His healing touch. *Growing faith* is a *believing trust* on Jesus.

John 15:5 “*I am the vine, ye the branches; he who is remaining in me, and I in him, this one doth bear much fruit, because apart from me ye are not able to do anything*”—spiritually worthwhile. And 6 “*If any one does not continue in me, he is like the unfruitful branch which is at once thrown away and then withers up. Such branches they gather up and throw into the fire and they are burned.*”

God will search our heart; He will show us any lack of faith; He will enable us to forgive, and will empower us to keep our faith in Him—every day for everything! By God’s mercy, love, and grace, we *will* be prepared for His kingdom—so Hebrews 10:23 “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)*” And He *promised* to prepare us—we just need to *let Him do it!*



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