

How Will You Prepare?

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What will *you* do to be ready? The question compels an answer. Being *prepared* means being *rooted* in the Word—*reading* and *heeding* and *following* the instructions of our Savior every day by the help of the Holy Spirit. It means being *quick* to listen and *ready* to do what we know is the *right* thing to do.

World population is over 8 billion people—and of that *huge* number of souls, very *few* are ready for the return of Christ—*very few* indeed. Knowing of that, it is *vital* that we are prepared by God for the return of His Son. We prepare by allowing God to teach us how to meet every situation according to the Scriptures—and not *ever* thinking we know better.

The *root* of all sin, and what Satan has *used* to deceive almost the entire world is, that we can live in this world and restore paradise conditions on earth, without God. All other sins are just by-products of that basic sin—going our own way and turning our back on God.

The world in general, and even many who believe they are Christians, have shut God out of their lives, since they do *not* trust Him in this life for anything. They are seeking peace, happiness, and contentment by their *own* ways and means.

Conditions in the world today *prove* that man has *failed* to accomplish any success with this. Every possible law has been passed and every plan has been followed—but the result is that conditions are *worse* than they have ever been.

And a serious aspect of it all is—that world conditions will just become *worse* and *worse* until the world *ends* and the horrible Tribulation *begins*. The Bible warns of this “*Time of trouble*” and this “*Day of God’s wrath!*”

Malachi 4:5 “*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*”¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:2 “*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*”³ *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.*”

It is a time of the *worst* conditions this world has ever experienced! There will be no peace, no protection, and no security anywhere on earth. Most people will be living in constant fear for their lives. *True believers*, however, are under the Blood of Christ, and are promised protection.¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:4 “*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*” How we *prepare* for that day is vital!

God allowed the world to attempt to make a paradise on earth—He allowed this so that the world would see how they have totally *failed* to create a *heaven on earth*. Only God can make our lives what they *ought* to be—and only He can make conditions on earth what they *should* be.

A new world is coming! 1 Corinthians 2:9 “*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him*”¹ *Isaiah 64:4.*

Human beings have had their opportunity for over *six thousand* years but failed. God will only take *seven* years to restore the perfect conditions of Eden during the Millennial reign of Christ on earth. Also, anyone who refuses the Mark of the Beast will reign Revelation 20:4 “*With Christ a thousand years.*”

Millions of people have tried in their *own* way and by their *own* power to make their life what they *think* it should be—but if God is left out, it

ends in failure. The cause of any trouble in our life is the *human* element. Any success achieved in a wrong way *justifies* the human element—taking us deeper into Adam’s sin.

Joseph failed to get out from prison when he tried to be released by his *own* way through the butler’s help. Depending on this *human* way hindered God from freeing him through the *divine* way.

It had seemed impossible to be free from that prison, but when the spiritual cause was corrected, God was able to work in restoring Joseph to his rightful position. “*With God all things are possible*”¹ Matthew 19:26.

The worst failure ever of *human* beings, is the murdering of God’s Son—and they did this while appearing to be religious. Nothing could be more wicked, evil, and malicious than that—yet God turned the worst human crime into the greatest divine blessing. God used the wicked act of these murderers to erase every sin—Luke 23:34, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*”

The pride and arrogance of people in general is worse today than it has ever been. People heap praise on each other and seek high positions in business, sports, music, and entertainment. Millions strive for a great reputation, and they try to be better, stronger, faster, richer, more admired, and more idolized than anyone before them.

It will all end in the most dreadful conditions this world has ever known. There will be devastating plagues, famines, and universal war—literally bringing everyone to their knees.

Mark 13:19 “*For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.*”²⁰ *And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect’s sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.*”

All God is asking us is, that we admit we *cannot* get along in this life without Him; and we *cannot* find happiness, contentment, or peace without Him—we *must* depend on and trust in His divine power for everything in life—as Adam did in the beginning. Exodus 20:3 “*You shall have no other gods before Me.*”

God knows that the place of perfect peace, protection, and happiness in this life, and forever in eternity, is found only in eliminating all self-plans and accepting all divine plans—which is trusting on the power of God. It is the only way to enjoy Eden-like conditions in *this* life—and leading to the next *eternal* life.

This learning to trust God can sometimes take a complete failure of our *own* plans, as Job had to learn. *Then* we are ready to allow God to work in our life. At other times it is like Cornelius, who was willing to *hear* the Truth and *change* his attitude. He said Acts 10:33 “*All of us are now assembled here in God’s presence, to listen to what the Lord has commanded you to say.*”

Cornelius was ready to *believe* what Jesus did for him at the Cross—it would *change* his life forever and *convert* his heart for good. The apostle said Acts 10:34-36 “*God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*”

It is nothing *in* us that makes us worthy to be accepted—it is all what *Jesus* did that can make us worthy. God is *merciful* and *forgiving* and *willing* to work with us—until we realize that we are helpless of ourselves, and that the *power* to accomplish the spiritual change needed in our life, is only from God. The only way to a true readiness to meet Jesus is, if God has full control of our life and attitudes.

The first Advent of Christ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 “*I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not,*

even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.”

There are two parts of the Second Coming—The first is the Rapture, and the second is the actual return of Christ to reign on earth for a thousand years. At the Rapture, Jesus remains in the air with those who have passed on in the faith.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them **in the clouds**, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

All true children of God are mortals until changed to immortal beings—and living forever with Him. 1 Corinthians 15:44-45 “*It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. “And so it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit”* Genesis 2:7—“*And man became a living soul.*”

We *need* to be changed—our heart *must* be converted—to one that will *believe* and *trust* God in faith, because in our former condition or attitude, we *cannot* enter Heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:50 “*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*”

What our appearance will be is not explained, but we may look similar to the way we do now. The rich man in Hell recognized Abraham and Lazarus in Heaven. Any advanced information the apostle received by a special revelation from God—was always passed on to believers.

Not everyone will have to die, and we are told in the New Testament *not* to look for death, but rather to *look* for *Jesus* to return in the clouds—accompanied by the sound of a trumpet.

Jesus will not only bring with Him those who have passed on in the faith, but He will take true believers back with Him without experiencing death—like Enoch and Elijah.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 “*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*”

The actual return of Christ to this earth is mentioned in many verses. We *must* be ready to meet Him—*How Will You Prepare* is a vital question. Preparation is only by keeping our *faith* and our *trust* on the Atonement Blood Jesus—that is what *forgives* our sins; *heals* our body and *provides* our needs.

Matthew 24:30 “*Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*”

Being prepared is being kind to people; It is extending divine love to everyone; It is showing respect to all people—everyone needs to know they are needed, loved, and appreciated!

It is being *fruit-ful* by being *root-ful* in the Word! Jesus *is* coming—*How Will You Prepare?*



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