Readiness

Intro: There have been a great many sermons preached on the subject “readiness” or on the term “ready” as it is found in the Bible. The importance of this subject, however, cannot be overemphasized. (The two words are found 102 times in the Bible.)

1. Ready: to be prepared; preparedness.
   a. We go to school to prepare and be ready for life.
   b. We go to church services and live a godly life to prepare and be ready for the judgment and heaven.

2. Let us notice how the term “ready is used in the Bible and some lessons it presents.

I. AS APPLIES PRIMARILY TO CHRISTIANS.
   A. Ready to preach the gospel and answer questions.
      1. Rom. 1:14-17 “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
      2. 1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”
      3. Since to be ready means to be prepared a lack of preparation shows a lack of readiness.
         a. If we are unprepared it shows a lack of study and thus we condemn ourselves.
         b. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
      
   B. Ready unto every good work.
      1. Tit. 3:1 “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”
      2. Again, implies a willing mind and preparation. Are we ready?

II. AS APPLIES TO ALL MEN.
   A. Ready to receive the truth.
      1. Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
      2. Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”
         a. When one gladly or readily receives the truth they will do what the word commands them to do.
b. Some, however, are not ready.

(1) Felix; Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”

(2) Agrippa; Acts 26:28 “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

3. Why should we be ready to receive the truth?

a. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

b. John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

B. Ready to die.

1. 2 Tim. 4:6-8 “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

2. Again, show preparation. Are we ready?

III. THE READINESS OF GOD.

A. He is ready to pardon and save.

1. Neh. 9:17 “And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.”

2. Willingness and preparedness are again implied.

B. Christ is ready.

1. Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

2. 2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

3. Rev. 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

C. The Holy Spirit and the church are ready: Rev. 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Conclusion: Are we ready? Pro. 31:6 “Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.”