I Am Ready

Intro: The idea presented implies the fact of sufficient preparation. Dictionary says ready, “having made preparations; equipped, supplied with what is necessary, for some object or purpose; in fit condition for doing anything, going anywhere.” There are certain things for which we should be ready.

I. Ready To Receive The Truth.

A. The proper preparation must be made.

1. The hearer’s heart must be prepared to receive the truth.
   a. Ezra 7:10 “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”
   b. Parable of the sower; Luke 8:15, 18 “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience... Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”

2. The truth must be preached.
   a. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
   b. Rom. 10:13-17 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

3. Only the truth can prevail.
   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. We should have our hearts prepared.

1. Examples:
   a. Cornelius: Acts 10:33 “Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”
   b. Bereans: 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.”
   c. Day of Pentecost: 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.”

II. Ready To Answer Questions.

A. 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:”

B. Can we answer the basic questions of salvation?

1. Acts 2:37 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
2. Acts 9:6 “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”
3. Acts 16:30 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
4. Can you answer the basic questions of why you are what you are? or why you live the way you live?

C. In order to answer questions it takes study (proper preparation).
1. 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.”
2. In a reasonable time we should be able to teach others
   a. Heb. 5:12 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”
   b. Shamefully, we have some Christians who have been such for years and even decades who could not tell others and do not tell others what basic questions of salvation.

III. READY UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK.
A. Tit. 3:1 “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work.”; Eph. 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
1. This indicates a willingness to perform them.
2. This indicates proper preparation to enable us to perform them.
B. What good works entail.
1. Preaching and teaching; cf. the great commission.
2. Giving; Tit. 3:14 “And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.”
3. Charitable deeds of compassion
   a. Mat. 25:31-46
   b. Acts 9:36, 39 “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did....” Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.”
   c. 1 Tim. 5:10 “Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.”
4. Living the Christian life; Mat. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
5. Being involved in the visitation program.
6. Using the abilities God has given us.
   a. leading singing
   b. teaching classes
C. Are we 100% ready to work—every good work?

IV. READY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.
A. Paul was ready to; 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.”
B. We should be ready to:
1. The great commission.
2. 2 Tim. 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
   a. The word commit means to deposit as a trust.
   b. God’s Word has been committed unto us.
   c. We are to be faithful in committing them to others.
3. 1 Cor. 4:1-2 “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
   a. We should be faithful in teaching others.
   b. We should be faithful in teaching only the truth (handling it aright).

C. Proper preparation must be made.
1. Study of the Scriptures; 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.”
2. This is why we encourage preacher training schools.

D. Each congregation should be a preacher factory.
1. The church at Jerusalem was; Acts 8:4 “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”
2. Are we ready to preach the gospel? In Bible classes, home Bible studies, etc.

V. Ready To Suffer Hardship For Jesus Sake.
A. Peter thought he was ready, only to learn he was not; Luke 22:31-34 “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. 33And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. 34And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.”

B. Paul was ready even to the point of death; Acts 21:13 “Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

C. Those who are Christians need to be ready.
1. We are in a great spiritual warfare.
   a. 2 Tim. 2:3-4 “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”
   b. That is why we are to put on the whole armor of God; Eph. 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
2. The enemy hates Christians.
   a. John 3:20 “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.”
   b. John 15:18 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”
3. Thus, they will persecute us.
   a. 2 Tim. 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
   b. 1 Pet. 4:12 “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”

D. Some will not suffer.
1. They will begin the life of Christianity, but will not continue because of persecution.
2. Mat. 13:20-21 “But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.”

VI. MILLIONS READY TO PERISH.
A. Pro. 31:6 “Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.”
B. This includes:
   1. Those not believing; John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
   2. Those who will not repent; Luke 13:3, 5 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
   3. Those who do not confess Christ; Mat. 10:32-33 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”
   4. Those not obeying the gospel; 2 The. 1:8-9 “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ‘Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
   5. Those who are not steadfast to the end.
      a. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
      b. Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
C. Are you ready to perish?

VII. GOD IS READY TO PARDON AND SAVE.
A. 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.”
   1. The Father stands waiting for us to return so he can pardon and save; cf. Luke 15 (the prodigal son).
   2. Christ is ready to save; Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
   3. The Holy Spirit is ready and invites us to come; 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.”
B. Are we ready?
   1. We should be like the wise virgins; Mat. 25:10 “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.”
2. We must count the cost.
   a. Luke 14:27-33 “And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”
   b. We must forsake all to follow Christ.
   c. We must humbly submit to His commands.

Conclusion: Paul was ready; 2 Tim. 4:6 “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.” Are we ready to meet God in judgment? Have we made the proper preparations? If not, then make them today.