**BE YE THERFORE READY**

**CHURCH MESSAGE 7/21/2013**

**Hurricanes vs Earthquakes..Northridge Jan 17 1994 4:31 am**

**I believe that life is always full of many surprises!!!**

**Many today are caught off guard when suddenly a turn of event take place that we were never really prepared for!!**

**The unexpected sometimes has a way of creeping up its ugly head!**

**Working at a job, and out of the blue just when you thought you were doing such a great job, bam....pink slip is handed out!!!**

**You go to the doctor for a routine oil change turns out the doctor has seen something worse and then give you an evil report.**

**You could be driving down the street and suddenly a tire blows out and your car skids out of control....Never saw it coming!**

**Teenagers go out on a date ....a month later....You know the rest! Parents never saw it coming!!!**

**A happy, happy home or so it seemed for many years then suddenly unfaithfulness creeps in and the family is never the same again!**

**A person goes to bed thinking all is well then suddenly wakes up in the hospital due to a stroke or heart attack! His or her life never to be the same again.**

**A robber enters a store, the clerk behind the counter never expects what this person is about to do....clerk gets shot store gets robbed.**

**Today we live in times where as Christians we must learn to "Expect the Unexpected!**

**SCRIPTURE Intro. Luke 12:40 says, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."**

**This means we must be watchful and ready at all times...**

 1. **The Bible has a great deal to say about readiness, getting**

**ready, being ready, staying ready.**

**???????????????ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?????????????**

**It will be profitable for us to consider some of the things**

 **the Bible says about readiness.**

**WE MUST BE READY BECAUSE...........**

**I. FIRST OF ALL, WE SERVE A READY GOD.**

 A. **"Ready to pardon**" -

**Neh. 9:17;..... but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness,**

 B. **"Ready to forgive**"

**Psalm 86:5;..****5For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.**

 C. **"Ready to save"**

**Isa. 38:20.****20The Lord was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the Lord.**

**1. Think of how good it is that we don't need to wait for God to get ready to save us.**

**2. God is willing, able, and ready to save us.**

 **a. Regarding Jesus -**

 **Heb. 7:25.....****25Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

 **b. There needs to be persuasion, but it is men who need to be persuaded, not God.**

 **3. We need to be thankful that He is a God who's always ready.**

 **When we desire the forgiveness of sins, we don't need to wait for God to be ready.**

 **1 John 1:9....****9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**1. God is ready to pardon, forgive, and save. What needs to be done is to persuade men to be ready to be pardoned, forgiven, and saved.**

**2 Cor. 5:11....****11Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.**

 **a. We need to be reconciled to God and not Him to us.**

**2 Cor. 5:20....****20Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

 **2. We ought to be thankful to God that He is always ready. He is a ready God.**

**II. WE NEED TO BE READY TO HEAR.**

 **A. Eccl. 5:1 ....** **5 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.**

 **1. We ought to be more ready to hear than to offer the sacrifice of fools.**

 **2. What is the sacrifice of fools?**

 **a. When we offer as our own worship.**

**Matt. 15:9;....****9But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

**Prov. 16:25****25There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**

**Jer. 10:23....****23O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**

 **b. When we presume that something is acceptable.**

**Psalm 19:13....****13Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.**

 **c. When we do not hear and do what God has said, we become fools**

 **before God.**

 **3. We need to be ready to hear and do God's word.**

 **Some very simple but important questions:**

 **"What has God commanded?"**

 **"What does the will of God teach?"**

 **a. The Word itself becomes the standard by which we are saved,**

 **worship, and will be judged in the last day.**

 **4. We need to receive God's Word with all readiness of mind and humility.**

 **Acts 17:11; ...****11These 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.**

**James 1:21...****21Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

**III. WE NEED TO BE READY TO TEACH GOD'S WORD.**

 **A. Peter said - 1 Pet. 3:15....****15But 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:**

 **1. We must study the Word of God to be able to do this.**

 **2. Consider the essential attitude in the first part of the verse.**

 **a. First and foremost, God needs to be set apart in our hearts.**

 **b. When He has been set apart in our hearts, we will gladly give a defense**

 **of our hope.**

 **(1) How? By giving an answer or defense for one's belief, attitude, or**

 **action,**

 **c. Our "hope" is the very foundation and motivator of our belief!!**

 **1 Pet. 1:13....****13Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

 **d. We give an answer or defense with humbleness and gentleness, and**

 **at the same time with awesome respect toward God.**

**2 Tim. 2:24-26...****24And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,25In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth 26And that the may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will**

**IV. WE NEED TO PERSUADE PEOPLE TO BE READY FOR THE LORD.**

 **A. John the Baptist -**

**Luke 1:16-17...****16And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.17And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**

 **1. We, too, are to make ready a people prepared for the Lord for His**

 **Second Coming.**

 **a. Let us, too, do it in the spirit and power of Elijah.**

 **b. John worked no miracles. He was successful because he was a powerful**

 **and persuasive teacher.**

 **B. First, let us be ready for the Lord's coming ourselves, and then help others to**

 **get ready.**

 **Mark 13:32-37...****32But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.33Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.34For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.35Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:36Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.37And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

 **1. When Jesus comes again, it will not be as a lamb to be sacrificed, but as a lion. He's coming back to take vengeance.**

 **a. There is a great day of wrath coming.**

**2 Pet. 3:7...****7But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

 **b. Thus, it is our responsibility to remind everyone to be ready.!!!**

 **Rom. 2:5...****5But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;**

**V. WE ARE TO BE READY TO EVERY GOOD WORK.**

**Titus 3:1...** **Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,**

 **A. This is not teaching that if someone begs, pleads, beseeches, and**

 **finally persuades and coaxes us, we consent to do a good work.**

 **1. It says, "ready." Preparation has been made in advance.**

 **B. What are some of those good works?**

**Consider those in context.**

 **1. Titus 2:1 - Speak the things which benefit the sound doctrine.**

 **2. Titus 2:2 - Older men are to set a good example.**

 **3. Titus 2:3-5 - Older women are to teach the younger women.**

 **4. Titus 2:6 - Younger men are to be sober-minded (of sound (mind).**

 **5. Titus 2:7-8 - In all things we show ourselves to be a**

 **pattern of good works.**

 **6. Titus 2:8 - We let no corrupt speech proceed from our**

 **mouths.**

 **7. Titus 2:9-10 - We are diligent and faithful workers.**

 **8. Titus 2:11-12 - We are to live soberly, righteously and godly in**

 **this present world.**

 **9. Titus 2:13-14 - All of these things are part of being ready**

 **for the Lord's coming.**

 **C. The "readiness of mind" for good works is important.**

**2 Cor. 8:11-12...****11Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.12For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.**

 **1. God never commands us to do something we cannot do.**

 **2. If the readiness and willingness is there, it is accepted by**

 **God.**

**VI. HERE'S A NEGATIVE EXAMPLE OF READINESS.**

 **A. Peter thought he was ready.**

 **Luke 22:33....****33And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death**

 **1. The Lord knew better. He knew Peter better than Peter knew himself.**

 **Luke 22:34, 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. What was wrong with Peter? It is the same problem with many of us.**

 **1. He was big on TALK, but little on DO.**

 **2. The other way around is better: big on DO and little on TALK.**

 **3. Peter was not ready at that time, but later he was.**

 **2 Pet. 1:13-14...****13Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;14Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.**

**VII. HERE'S POSITIVE EXAMPLES OF READINESS.**

 **A. Rom. 1:14-15 - 14I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.15So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.**

**This was not just talk.**

 **1. Later, through the aid and providence of God, he preached in Rome.**

**Acts 28:30-31....****30And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,31Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.**

 **B. Here's another example of readiness.**

**Ezra 7:6,10...** 6This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.

 **1. Ezra was a ready (skilled) scribe in the Law of Moses.**

 **2. Since the scribes daily copied the law, they were expected to know it. Thus,**

 **they became teachers of the law.**

 **3. Ezra not only knew the law, but taught and lived it.**

 **a. To have ready scribes (teachers) of the N.T. of Christ is**

 **a great blessing.**

Matt. 13:52... 52Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

**Concl.**

 **A. The question each of us need to ask ourselves is, "Am I ready?"**

 **1. Matt. 22:4 ..** 4Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are **ready**: come unto the marriage.

 **2. God has a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"**

 **(1 Pet. 1:5), ..****5Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

**and all those who are ready will go in.**

 **Matt. 25:10-13...****10And 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.11Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.12But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.13Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

 **3. The Lord is ready to forgive and save, and at the same time**

 **He is ready to judge and condemn.**

 **Heb. 7:25;..** 25Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

 **James 5:9....****9Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.**

 **B. Again, the question that each one of us needs to ask himself is.......,**

**"Am I ready?"**

 **1. If you are not ready, why not get ready? Why not obey the**

 **gospel now?**

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