

THINGS ARE READY, ARE YOU?

1 Peter 1:5; 4:5 Luke 12:40 Matthew 25:10

Introduction: "Be Prepared" is a motto of a young lad's organization and it is a theme that runs throughout other groups, such as firemen, policemen, hospitals, emergency units, and our military to just name a few. We use the word "ready" many times every day and we are talking about being prepared, something at hand, or present, equipped to act, things in order and so on. When God uses the word "ready" He is talking about something tremendous, something life changing, something eternal, something of great importance. When God talks about His things being READY, we need to sit up and take notice. Here are some things that God says are ready.

I. SALVATION IS READY TO BE REVEALED (*1 Peter 1:5*)

1. When Jesus Christ comes back again, our bodies will also be caught up.
 - Our souls are instantly delivered the moment we believe in Jesus.
 - Our bodies will be delivered when Jesus returns for His Church.

2. Salvation is ready to be revealed.
 - There is nothing left, as far as God is concerned.
 - There is nothing left, as far as the work of Jesus is concerned.
 - There is nothing left, as far as the testimony of the Holy Spirit is concerned.
 - All is done that needed to be done.
 - Atonement has been made.
 - Redemption has been accomplished.
 - God has been glorified in what Jesus Christ has done.
 - From the moment Jesus took His seat at the right hand of God.
 - There is nothing to hinder our hearing "the shout of the archangel and the trump of God."
 - Salvation is ready to be revealed.

3. Salvation was not ready until the groundwork had been laid.
 - When Jesus Christ died and rose again, THEN salvation was ready to be revealed.

II. JUDGMENT IS READY TO BE REVEALED (*1 Peter 4:5*)

1. There is nothing left to wait for in judgment.
 - God has gone to the utmost in demonstrating grace.
 - Man has gone to his utmost in demonstrating his guilt.
 - Both have reached their climax in the death of Jesus Christ

2. Man is no longer under "probation."
 - God is not testing man any longer to see if he is fit.
 - God is not testing man any longer to see if he will produce anything for God.
 - God is through testing man.
 - The period of the longsuffering of God has just about run out.

3. Judgment is actually ready to fall upon every person who is without Jesus Christ, lost.
 - As far as God is concerned, everything that can be done for the salvation of man has been done.
 - When Jesus Christ died, that ended the testing of man and every man, woman and child has been found guilty and condemned.
 - But the sentence has not been yet executed. It is ready this very moment to be carried out.
 - God is ready this very moment to bring judgment upon all mankind.

III. WE MUST THEREFORE BE (GET) READY (*Luke 12:40*)

1. Just what is "readiness" for all this? How are we to be/get ready?
 - We must be ready in conscience, accepting that which Jesus Christ has done for us.
 - We must be ready in heart, obedient to that which the Holy Spirit is doing within us.
2. We cannot depend upon our own goodness, upon our own righteousness, upon our neighbors, upon our church membership, upon our observing the ordinances of the church.
 - We cannot lean upon anything except what Jesus Christ has done for us and be ready.
 - God will not accept anything of us except that which is of Jesus Christ.
3. We cannot be ready if our heart is not right through obeying the Holy Spirit.
 - Countless church goers think they are ready who are easy going, happy-go-lucky in their ways but their works do not show any obedience to the Holy Spirit.
4. We cannot be ready if the way we dress does not compliment Christ, nor what we watch on television or read or talk about in jokes and such reflect Christ as being in our hearts.
5. If Jesus Christ is really in our hearts, we are ready. If we have Christ in our hearts, then we will have the right thing in our thoughts and in our hands.
6. When Jesus Christ comes back, what will He find you watching? What will He find you reading? What will He find you talking about? Where will He find you?

CONCLUSION: (*Matthew 25:10*)

1. Those of this scripture were ready and went in and those who were not ready were shut out.
 - This is how it will be when Jesus Christ returns.
 - Those who have believed in Jesus Christ with all their being will be taken up.
 - Those who have believed in Jesus Christ only superficially and not with their hearts and total being will be left behind.
2. Salvation is ready, Judgment is ready, are you ready?