

Always Be Ready
By Trey Sullins

Would you ever take a trip without first packing? Would you ever start a project without first gathering the required materials? In nearly everything we do, we prepare. Proper preparation is what allows us to begin and finish all from small to large tasks. What is sometimes surprising is how people spend so much time preparing for the things that may or may not happen in this life, but then they will often spend very little time preparing for the most important thing: our spiritual walk. All throughout the New Testament there are passages which teach us how we ought to prepare ourselves for the work of a Christian.

We must prepare to “give a defense” of the gospel. In 1 Peter 3:15 the Bible says, “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” Giving a defense means that we are capable of making logical and biblical arguments to back up our beliefs as Christians. First Peter 3:15 says we must be ready to answer those who ask things of us. Usually in life, you never know when someone might ask you questions about the faith. Therefore, the best thing to do is to be prepared beforehand. Consider the great example of the Bereans in Acts 17:11. When they began to hear the message of Christ, they searched the scriptures to make sure it was right and learn more. Our daily studies should be deep and specific to help us learn how to answer everything that might come our way.

We must prepare to contend for the faith! Jude 3 says, “I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” The wording here refers the spiritual struggle or wrestling that we must do as Christians. In the following verse the writer reveals that false teachers are all around. These false teachers bring in all kinds of ideas and teachings which lead people away from the grace of God and towards the evils of Satan. Therefore, we have to contend against these false teachers. Whenever we hear these things and meet these people, we must reveal the truth of God’s word to them!

We must remember our motivation for why we do these things. The end of the book of Jude says, “And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh” (Jude 1:22-23). As Christians one of our jobs is to be concerned with the souls of everyone around us. As we go throughout our days, we see many of people. Every single person that we meet needs the saving grace of Jesus. This is the reason for Jude’s exhortation. We should be concerned with trying our hardest to make sure that all hear about the gospel of Christ. First Timothy 4:16 says, “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” If we are motivated and always stay prepared, then that will directly impact our ability to save not only ourselves, but also those whom we come in contact with.

We are always ready for so many different things in life. Some of us have emergency kits, first aid kits, or long-lasting food kits. Let us all make sure that we have the most important kit: the spiritual kit. Meaning that we are set up and motivated to defend and contend the way of Christ. Our salvation depends on it, and the salvation of those around us may depend on this as well. Are you always ready?