

THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

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PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

In secular things, the importance of preparation is stressed. In agriculture, farmers are taught to prepare the soil before planting the seed. In school, students are impressed with the need of preparing their lessons. Before making a journey, sufficient preparation is necessary. Although we stress the importance of preparation in secular things, many times we fail to impress ourselves and others with the importance of preparing to meet God.

Amos the prophet tried to impress Israel with the importance of preparing to meet God by showing how curses were brought upon Israel because of a lack of preparation. After enumerating a number of curses that God had brought upon Israel because of her many sins, God said to Israel: “Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, **prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.**” (See Amos 4:6-13).

In the parable of the ten virgins as recorded in Matthew 25:1-3, we learn that **“they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.”** The five foolish virgins who failed to make sufficient preparation were not allowed to enter in to

the marriage. Although they later came and said, **“Lord, Lord, open to us,”** they were told by the Lord, **“I know ye not.”**

Let us now consider several reasons why we should prepare to meet God:

1. ALL MUST DIE. In Genesis 3:19 God told Adam, “. . . **for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**” Solomon showed the certainty of death by stating in Ecclesiastes 3:2 **“A time to be born, and a time to die,”** and in Ecclesiastes 9:5 **“For the living know that they shall die . . .”** We are also impressed with the certainty of death by the Hebrew writer when he said: “. . . **it is appointed unto man once to die. . .**” (Hebrews 9:27).

2. THE MEETING WITH GOD IS INEVITABLE. We do not have a lease on life. Death is sure, but death does not end us. Death is not annihilation or a going out of existence. For as in Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (See 1 Cor. 15:22). We will be raised from the dead to face Christ in judgement. The apostle Paul stated that **“we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ.”** (2 Cor. 5:10). He

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Editorial . . .

ASSEMBLING

Christians teach that **"Christians should assemble with regularity to worship God."** Is this teaching true? Is it OF FAITH? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? It is NOT OF FAITH and can not be advocated BY FAITH unless it is taught in God's Word since **"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17). Since there are a number of "Christians" who do not assemble regularly with the saints to worship God, I would like for each of us to give careful consideration to the following facts:

1. ACTS 2:42 says: **"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers."** NOTE: This refers to disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. ACTS 4:31 says: **"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they WERE ASSEMBLED TOGETHER."** NOTE: Peter and John had been let go after being threatened by the "rulers," and they come unto their own company. Hence, we can see that disciples of Christ were assembled together.

3. ACTS 11:26 says: **"And when he (Barnabas) had found him (Saul), he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a**

whole year THEY ASSEMBLED THEMSELVES WITH THE CHURCH, and taught much people . . ." NOTE: It is quite obvious that the Christians in Antioch assembled with regularity.

4. ACTS 20:7-8 says: **"And upon the first day of the week, when the DISCIPLES CAME TOGETHER TO BREAK BREAD, Paul preached unto them . . . And there were many lights in the upper chamber where THEY WERE GATHERED TOGETHER."**

5. Paul taught the Ephesian elders **"PUBLICLY, and from house to house."** See Acts 20:20. NOTE: Since Paul taught them publicly, this seems to suggest that they gathered in public assemblies.

6. Paul taught that a wicked brother should be delivered unto Satan **"WHEN YE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER."** (See 1 Corinthians 5:1-6). NOTE: This statement implies the assembling of the saints.

7. In 1 Corinthians 11:18 Paul says: **"WHEN YE COME TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH."** Verse 20 says: **"WHEN YE COME TOGETHER INTO ONE PLACE."** Verse 33 says: **"Wherefore, my brethen, WHEN YE COME TOGETHER TO EAT, tarry one for another."** NOTE: These expressions certainly imply the gathering together of saints.

8. 1 CORINTHIANS 14:23 says: **"If therefore the WHOLE CHURCH BE COME TOGETHER INTO ONE PLACE . . ."** (See also verse 26). 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 mentions **"IN THE CHURCHES"** which means **"in the assemblies."**

9. I CORINTHIANS 16:2 says: **"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."** NOTE: This letter was not only addressed to the church of God at Corinth, "to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, WITH ALL THAT IN EVERY PLACE CALL UPON THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD." (See 1 Cor. 1:2).

10. COLOSSIANS 3:16 says: **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing ONE ANOTHER in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs . . ."** NOTE: This can not be accomplished unless we gather with others in some capacity.

11. JAMES 2:1 says: **"For if there COME UNTO YOUR ASSEMBLY a man with a gold ring . . ."** NOTE: This passage implies that Christians did assemble.

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also said: "... **He (God) hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness.**" (Acts 17:31). Such passages as Matthew 25:1-46, Romans 14:10-12, Revelation 20:12-15 and Hebrews 9:27 also emphasize the fact that the meeting with God in judgement is certain. **NO ONE WILL ESCAPE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST!**

3. THE WAY TO HEAVEN IS STRAIT AND NARROW. In other words, it is narrow and difficult. Jesus taught that the way that leads unto life is "strait and narrow" and only a few people will find it. In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus said: "**Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**" A person will not "accidentally" enter the strait and narrow way. One must resolve to enter it. It is a way of deliberate choice. One must obey the gospel of Christ in order to enter the way of life. Paul affirms in Romans 1:16 that the gospel "**is the power of God unto salvation.**" Jesus told his apostles to "**Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**" (Mark 16:15-16). We learn from 2 Thess. 1:7-9 that Christ will come "**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.**"

A child of God will have to turn his back on the ways of the world and follow the word of Christ as being his rule of conduct. The word of Christ will judge us at the last day. In John 12:48 Jesus said: "**He that rejected me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**" The Word of Christ, as revealed in the New Testament, is sufficient to guide us in all things that pertain unto life and godliness. It completely furnishes the man of God unto every good work. (See 2 Pet. 1:3 & 2 Tim. 3:16-17). It teaches us what to believe and how to worship, work and serve God. Every

child of God should endeavor to "**seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.**" (See Matthew 6:33). In order for one to be prepared in the day of judgement, he must get in and remain in the "strait and narrow way". One must "be faithful" unto death. Otherwise, there is no hope. Peter says: "**For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb. The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.**" (2 Peter 2:20-22). Jesus said: "... **be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**" (Rev. 2:10).

4. TO ENJOY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. Paul said: "**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**" (Ephesians 1:3). Since all spiritual blessings are in Christ, there are no spiritual blessings outside of Christ. Only those people who have made preparation according to the New Testament are in Christ. Those who are children of God are "**heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.**" (Rom. 8:16-17). Those who have not made preparation are unprepared to enjoy the spiritual blessings that are in Christ.

5. TO BE SAVED ETERNALLY. When a person obeys the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, he is then saved from his past sins and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. (See Romans 6:17-18 & Colossians 1:13-14). In order for a person to be saved eternally, he must live right as a Christian. In other words, he must continue to obey Christ. Consider Hebrews 5:9 which says: "**And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.**"

Christ has gone to prepare a place for a prepared people. (See John 14:1-3 & Matthew 25:31-46). If you are not prepared in the day of judgement, you can not escape the damnation of hell! If you are not

POLYTHEISM

For centuries men have accepted polytheism, that is, "the doctrine of, or belief in, a plurality of gods." Polytheism is still accepted by many people throughout the world. However, the Scriptures show that such a doctrine is false.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**Thou shalt have no other gods before me?**" (Exo. 20:3). NOTE: God spake these words to Israel.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round you?**" (Deut. 6:14). NOTE: God spake these words through Moses to the Israelites.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**For all the gods of the people are idols: but the Lord made the heavens?**" (1 Chron. 16:26); Psalms 96:5). NOTE: David spake these words.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them?**" (Isaiah 37: 19). NOTE: Hezekiah spake these words concerning the action of the kings of Assyria.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**...this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands?**" (Acts 19:26). NOTE: Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, spake these words when he saw that
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his craft was in danger if the Ephesians accepted Paul's teaching.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.**" (Gal. 4:8) NOTE: Paul spake these words to the Christians in Galatia.

Let us reject and oppose polytheism!
(CRS)

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prepared for the judgement, please make sufficient preparation while time and opportunity are yours! Yesterday is forever past and gone! Tomorrow may never come! NOW is the time to prepare for the judgement! "**And they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.**"

(CRS)

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ASSEMBLING

12. HEBREWS 10:25 says: "**NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER. . .**"

Yes, the teaching that "Christians should assemble to worship God" IS OF FAITH! AND CAN BE ADVOCATED BY FAITH!
(CRS)

Although we are getting nearer to eternity each day, we still have received no word regarding the SUTTON-HILL DEBATE.

Sentence Sermons

The Bible has survived the ignorance of its friends and the hatred of its enemies.

There is no moral difference between legal and illegal stealing.

Truth will win every argument if you stick to it long enough.

There are two sides to every question and if you want to be popular take both.

Blessed is the man who does not speak until he knows what he is talking about.

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